VOLUME
1

OUTLANDERS™

JOHJI MANABE

OUTLANDERS™

VOLUME 1

story and art
JOHJI MANABE

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OUTLANDERS™

VOLUME 1

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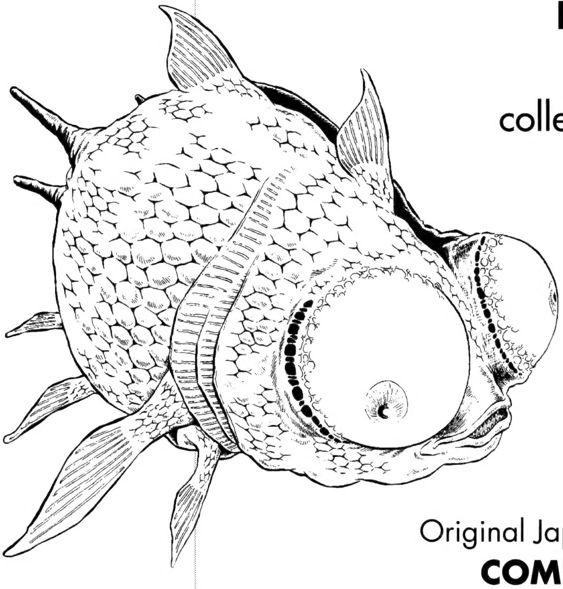

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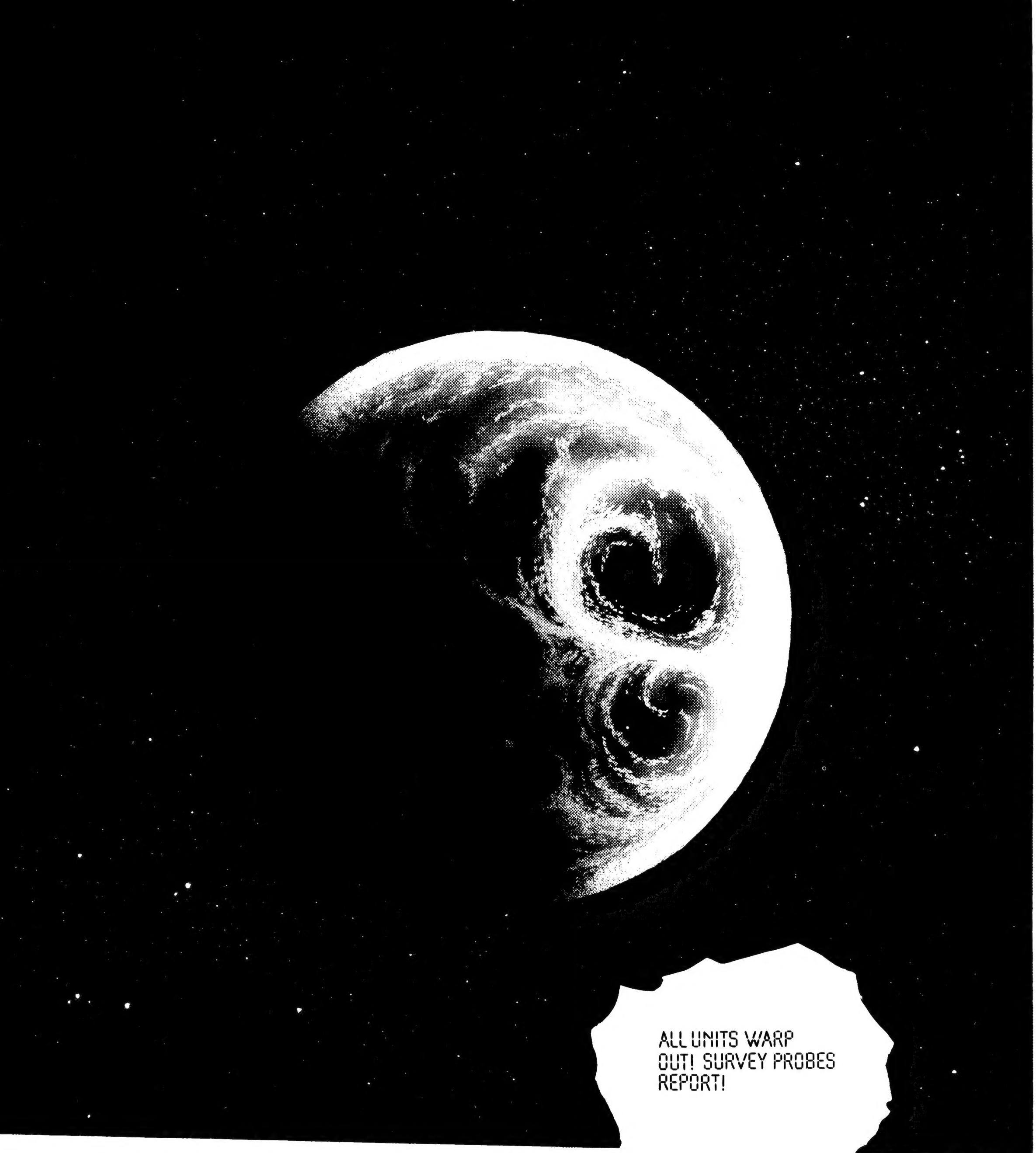
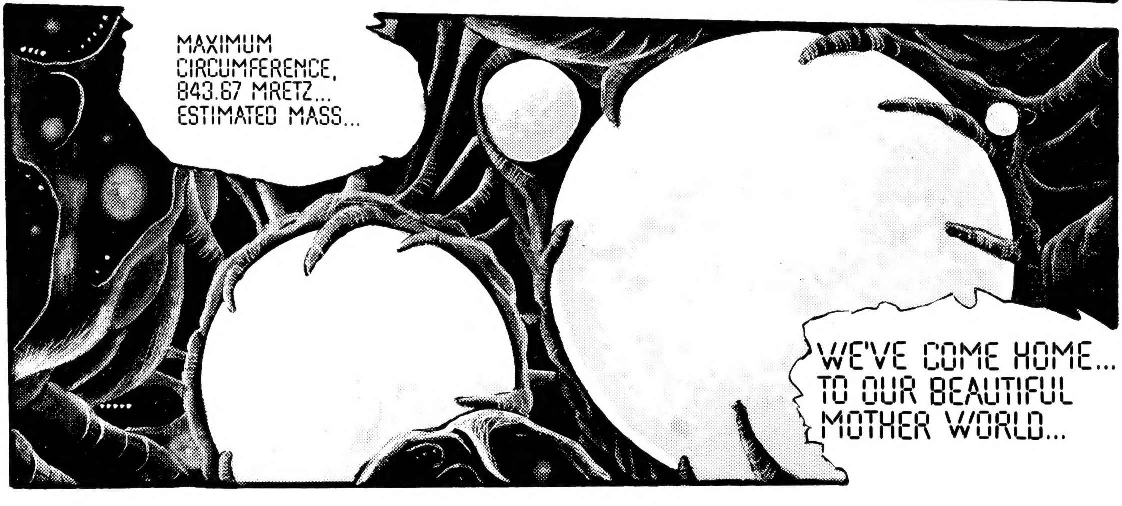
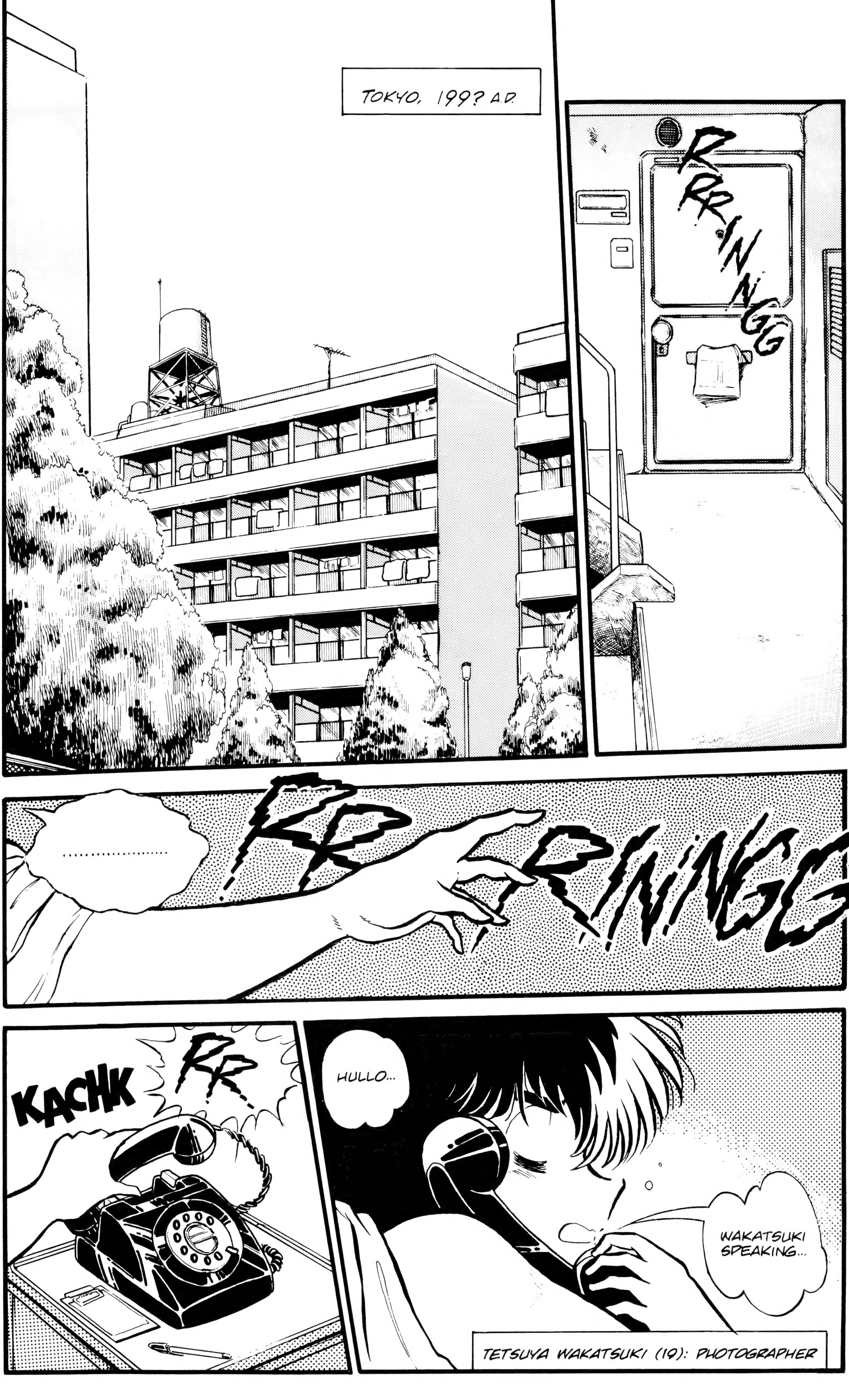
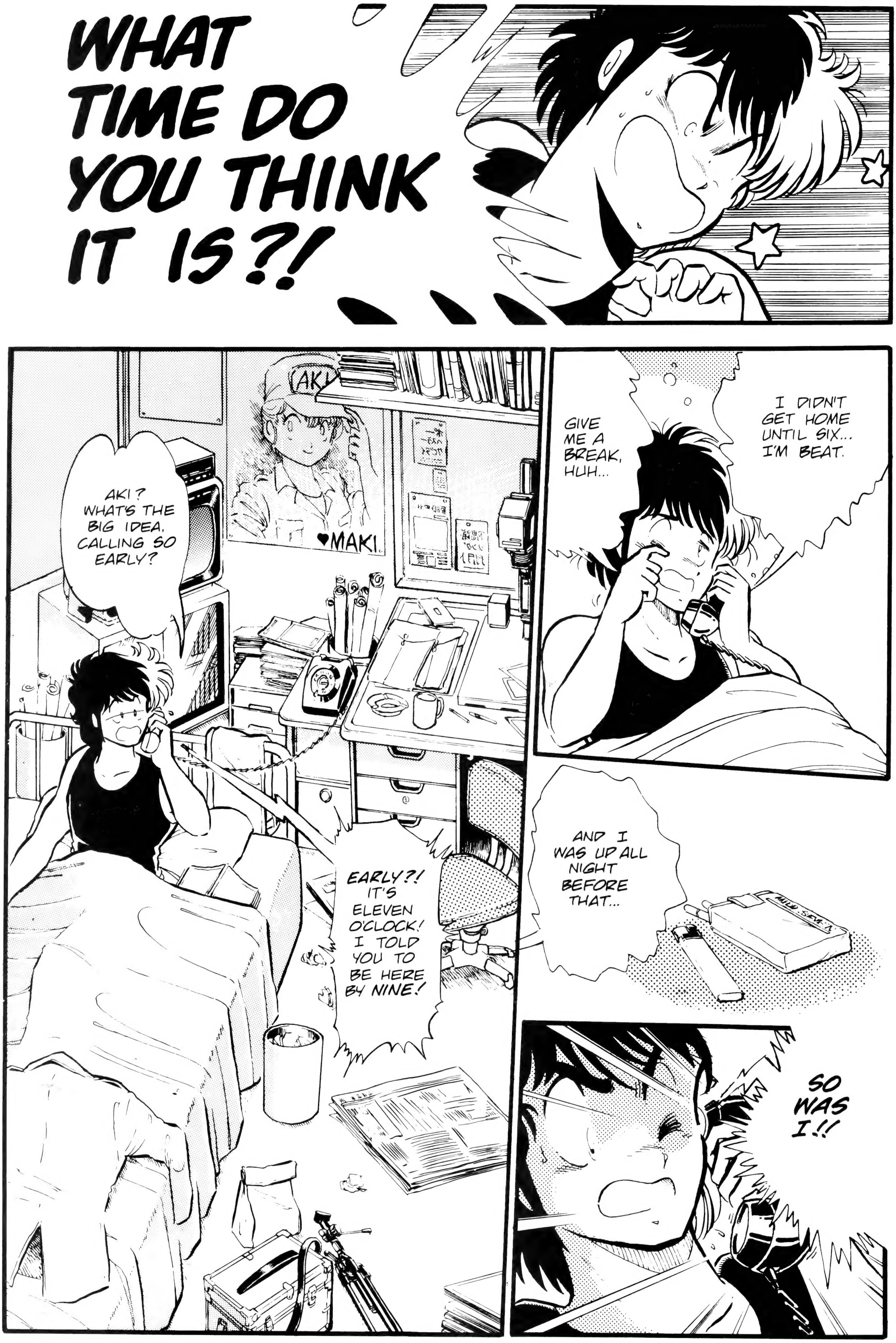
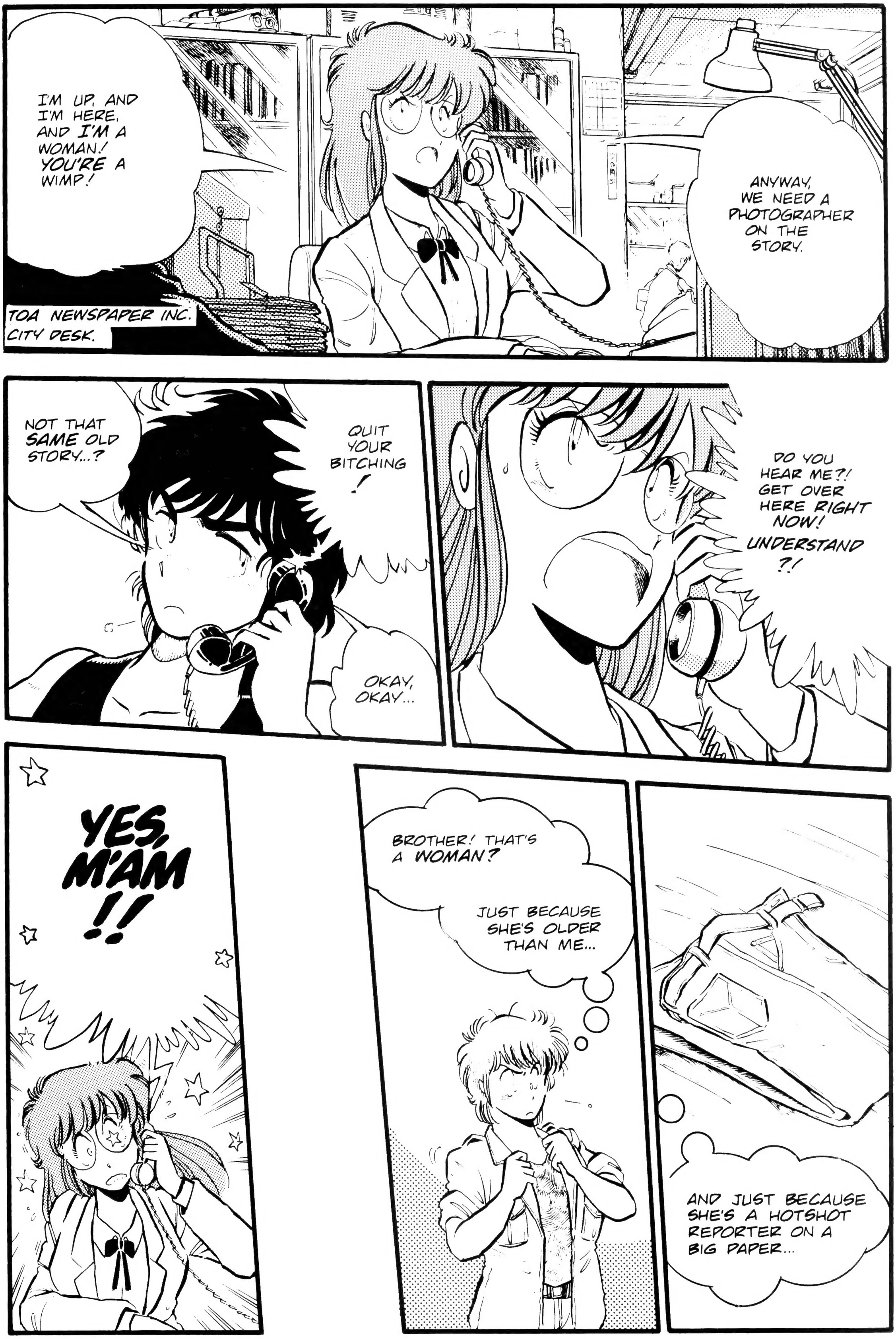
CHAPTER 1

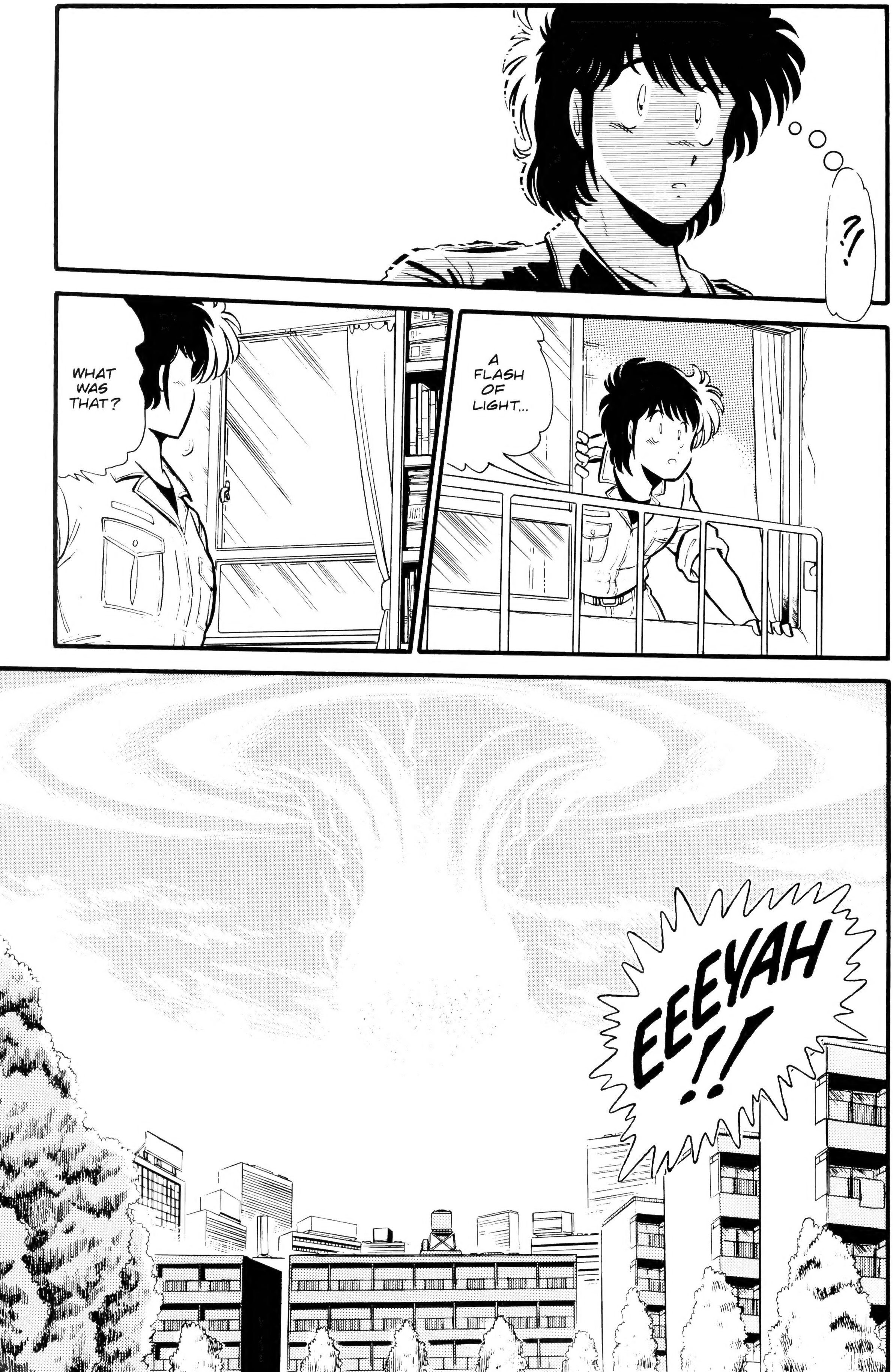

ALL UNITS WARP OUT! SURVEY PROBES REPORT!

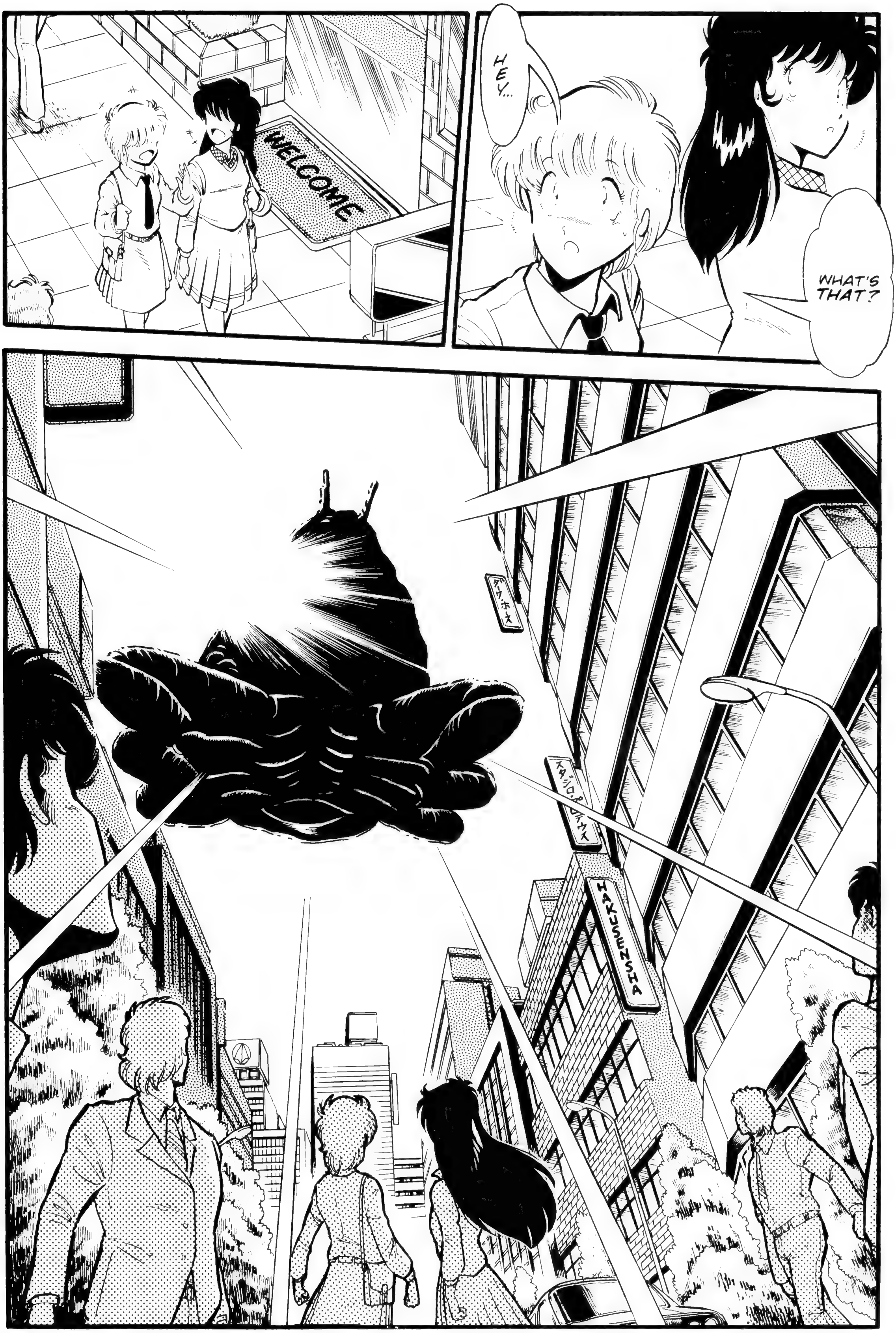

MAXIMUM CIRCUMFERENCE, 843.67 MRETZ... ESTIMATED MASS...
WE'VE COME HOME... TO OUR BEAUTIFUL MOTHER WORLD...

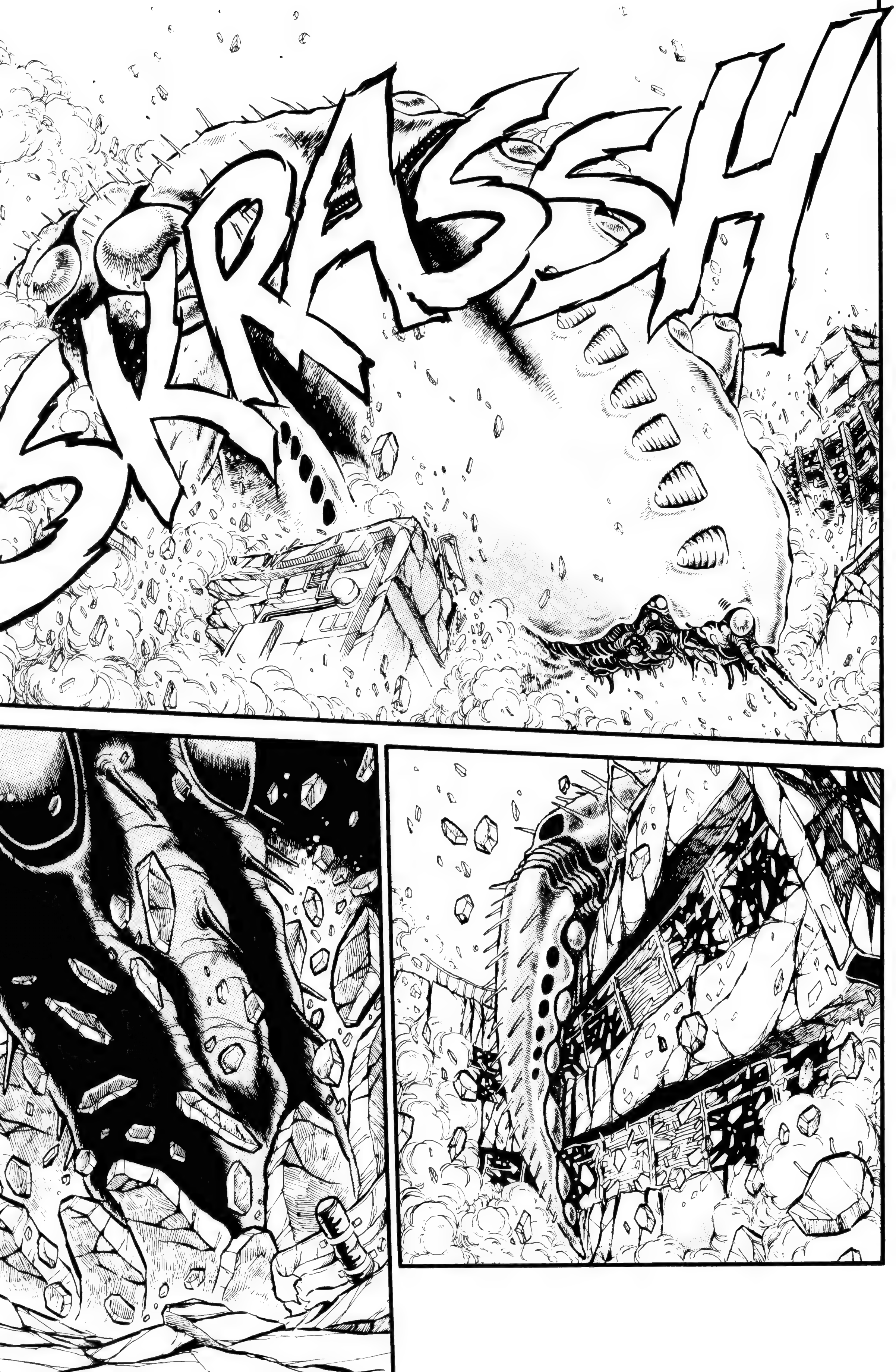

TOKYO, 199? A.D.
RRRINNGG
....
RRRINGG
KACHK
RR
HULLO...
WAKATSUKI SPEAKING...
TETSUYA WAKATSUKI (19): PHOTOGRAPHER

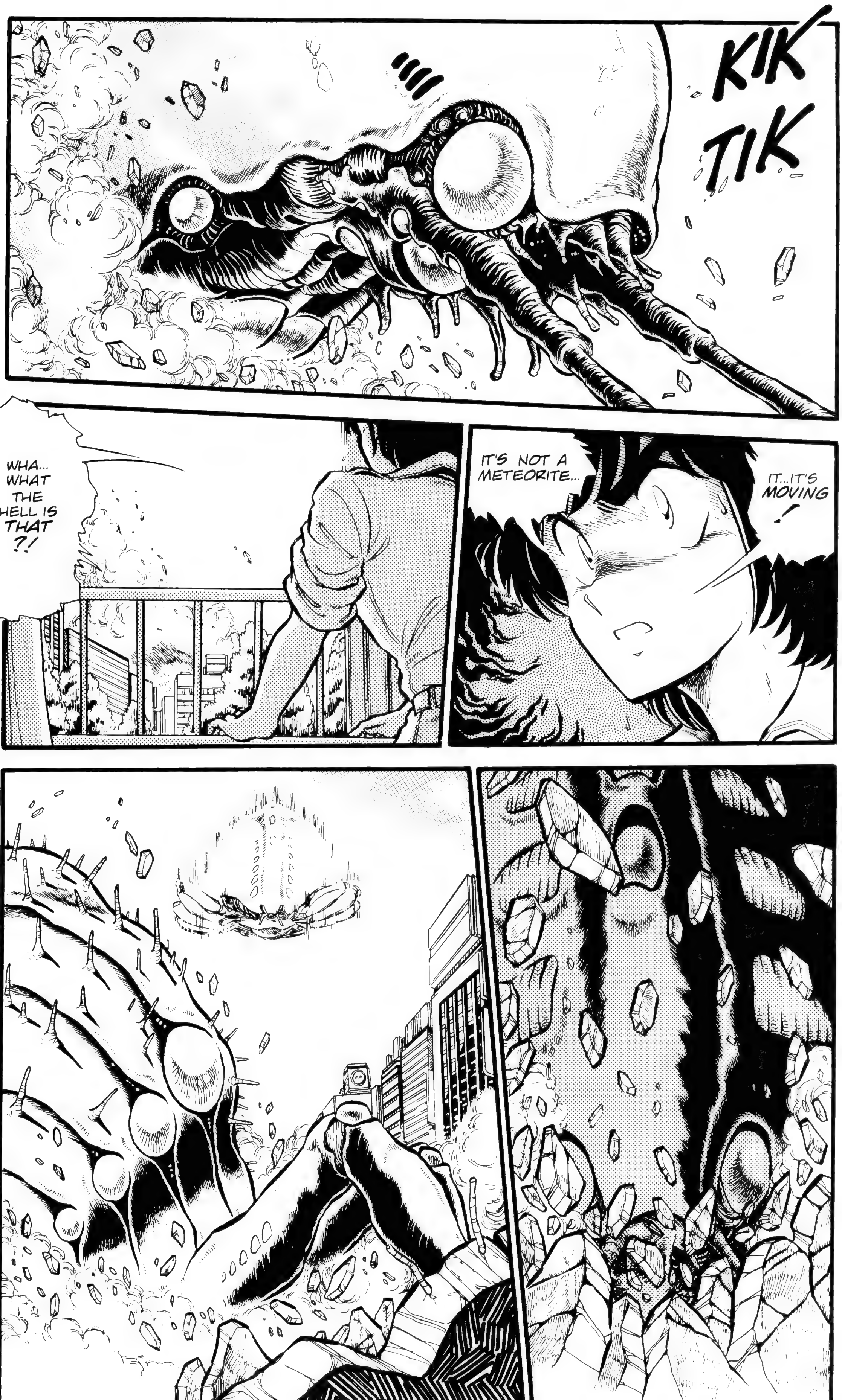

WHAT TIME DO YOU THINK IT IS?!
AKI
♥MAKI
AKI? WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, CALLING SO EARLY?
EARLY?! IT'S ELEVEN O'CLOCK! I TOLD YOU TO BE HERE BY NINE!
GIVE ME A BREAK, HUH...
I DIDN'T GET HOME UNTIL SIX... I'M BEAT.
AND I WAS UP ALL NIGHT BEFORE THAT...
MILD SEVEN
SO WAS I!!

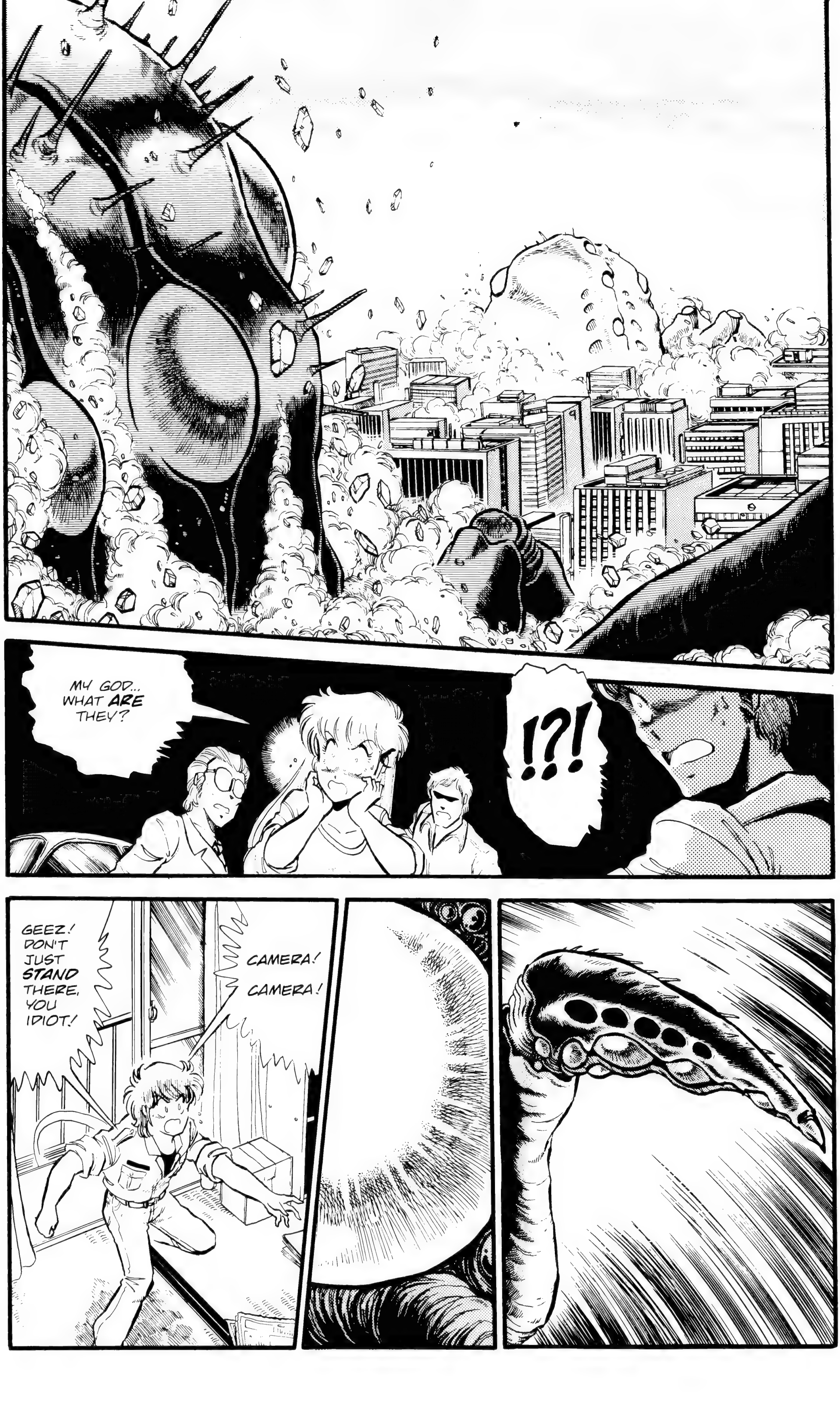

TOA NEWSPAPER INC. CITY DESK.
I'M UP, AND I'M HERE, AND I'M A WOMAN! YOU'RE A WIMP!
ANYWAY, WE NEED A PHOTOGRAPHER ON THE STORY.
NOT THAT SAME OLD STORY...?
QUIT YOUR BITCHING!
OKAY, OKAY...
DO YOU HEAR ME?! GET OVER HERE RIGHT NOW! UNDERSTAND?!
YES, M'AM!!
BROTHER! THAT'S A WOMAN?
JUST BECAUSE SHE'S OLDER THAN ME...
AND JUST BECAUSE SHE'S A HOTSHOT REPORTER ON A BIG PAPER...

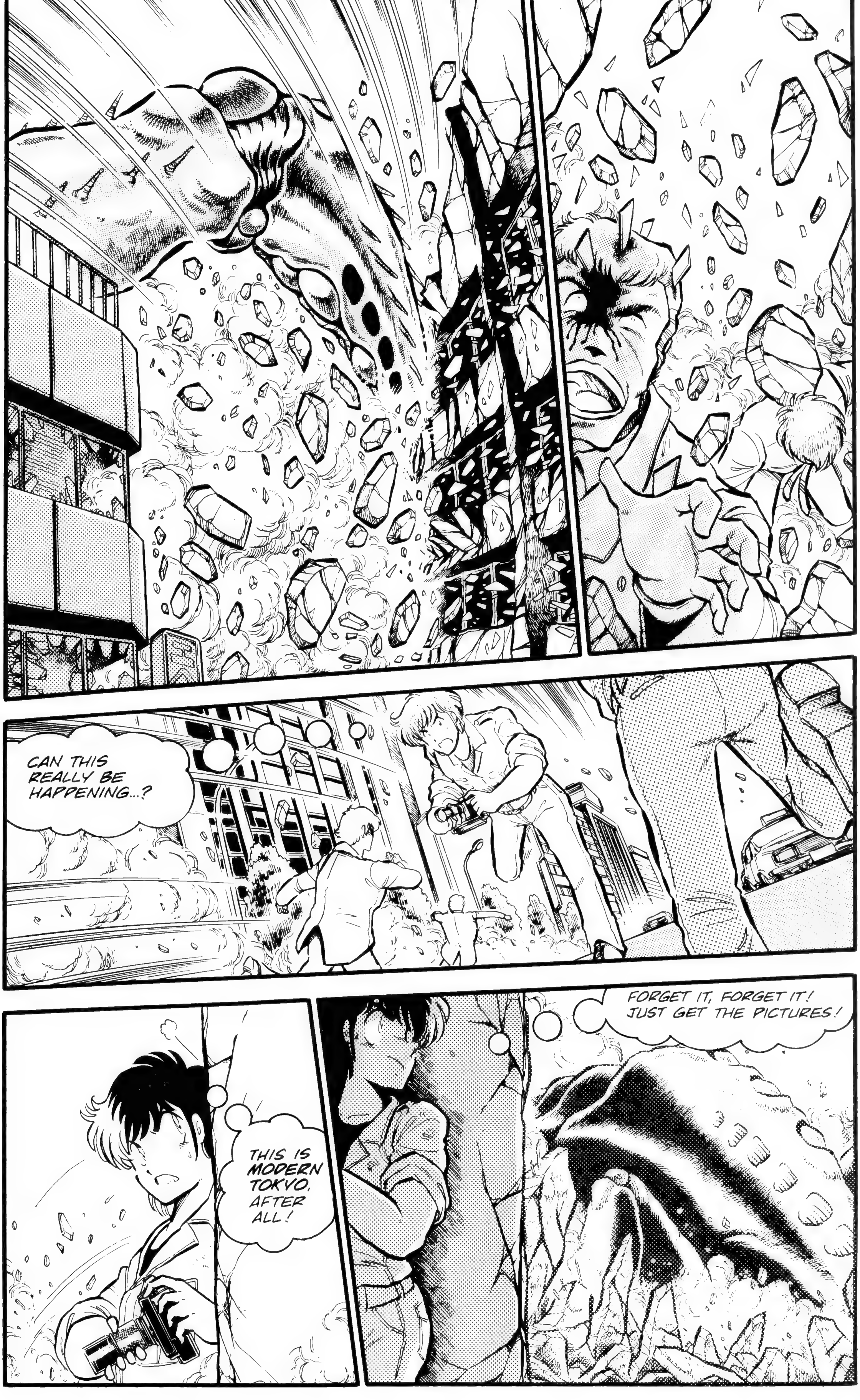

?!
WHAT WAS THAT?
A FLASH OF LIGHT...
EEEYAH!!

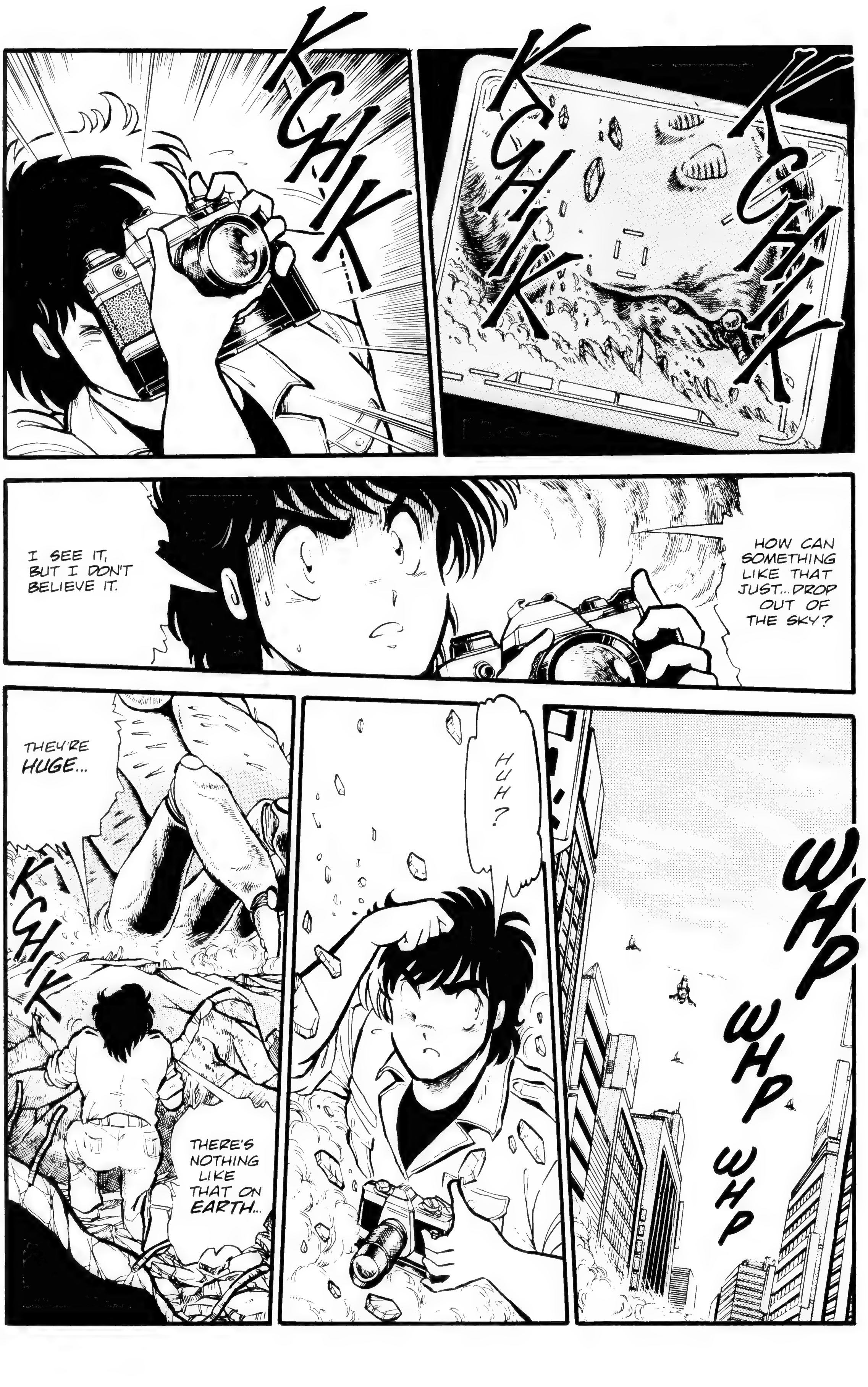

HEY...
WHAT'S THAT?
WELCOME
ダーク・ホース
スタジロ・プロデウス
HAKUSENSHA

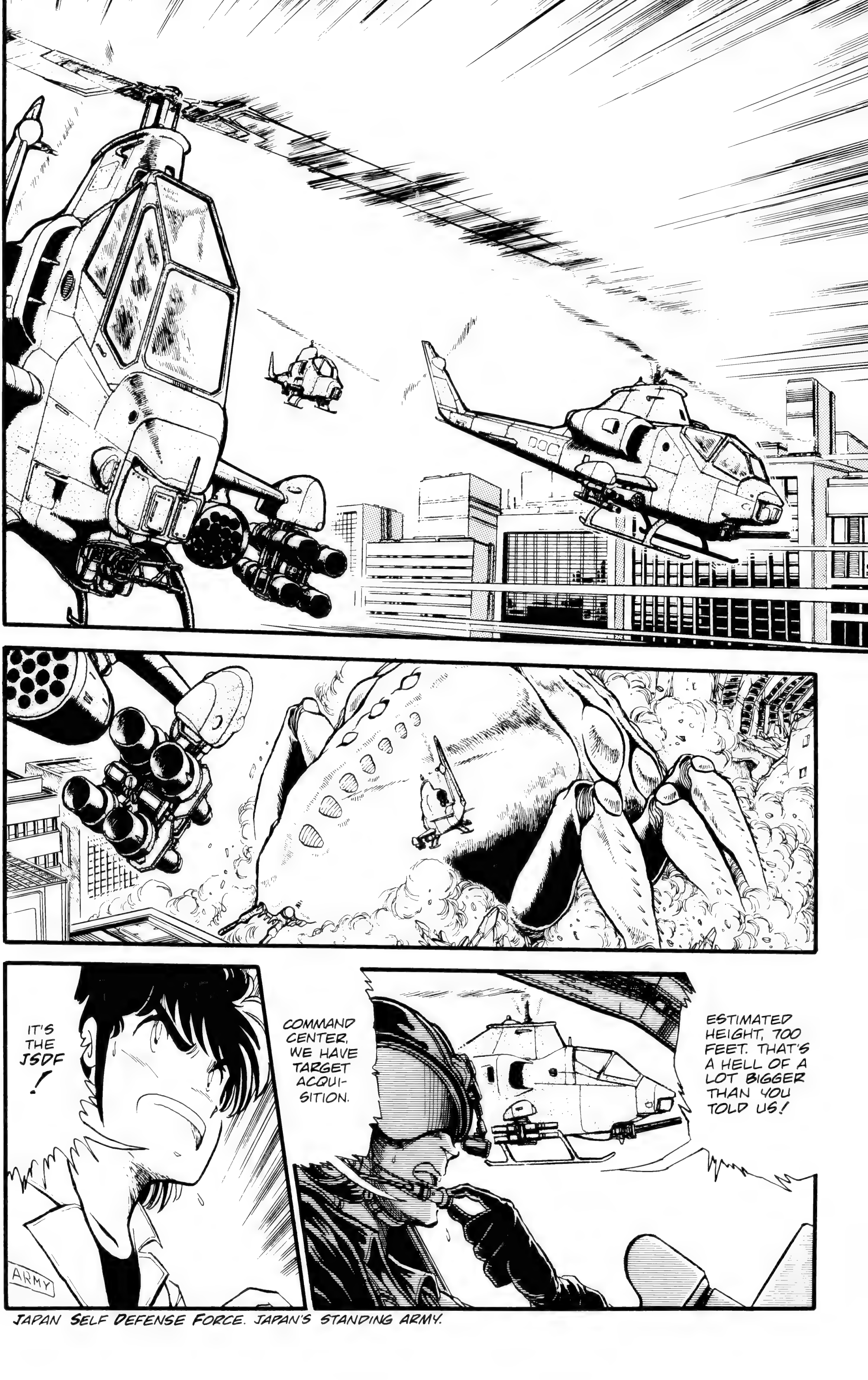

SKRASSH


KIK TIK
WHA... WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!
IT'S NOT A METEORITE...
IT...IT'S MOVING!

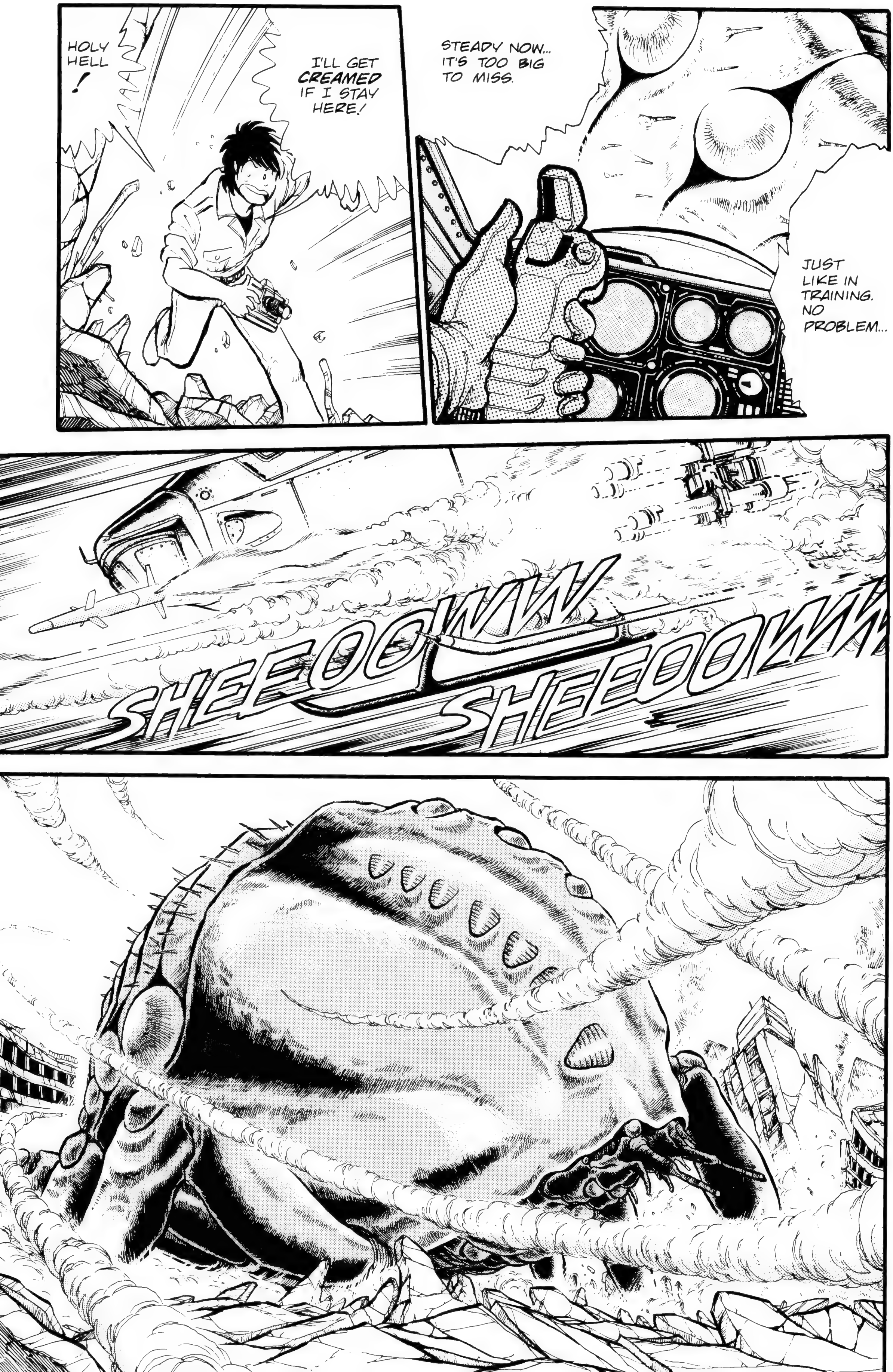

MY GOD... WHAT **ARE** THEY?
!?!
GEEZ! DON'T JUST **STAND** THERE, YOU IDIOT!
CAMERA! CAMERA!

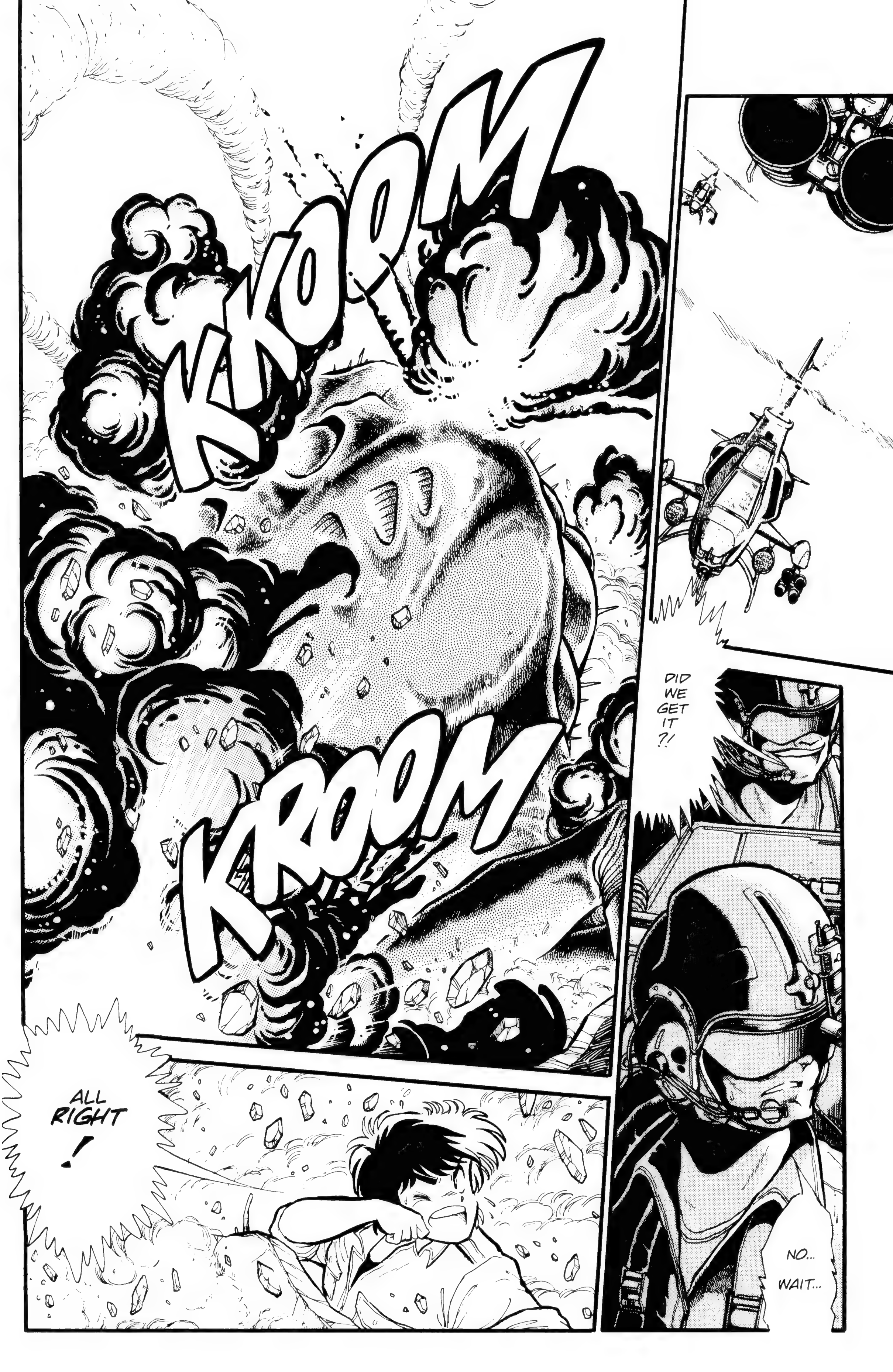

CAN THIS REALLY BE HAPPENING...?
THIS IS MODERN TOKYO, AFTER ALL!
FORGET IT, FORGET IT! JUST GET THE PICTURES!

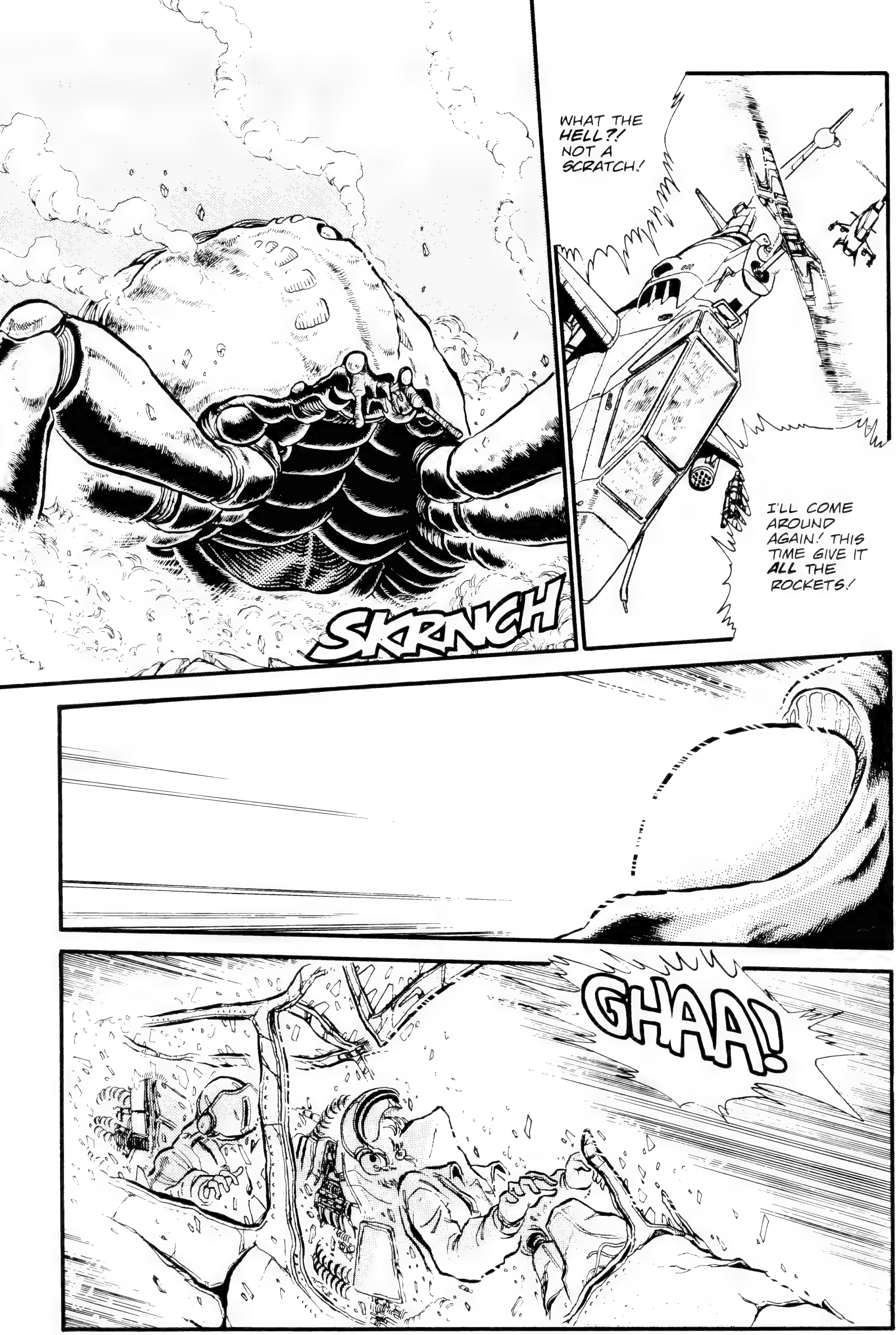

KCHIK
KCHIK
KCHIK
I SEE IT, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
HOW CAN SOMETHING LIKE THAT JUST...DROP OUT OF THE SKY?
THEY'RE HUGE...
KCHIK
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THAT ON EARTH...
HUH?
WHP WHP WHP WHP

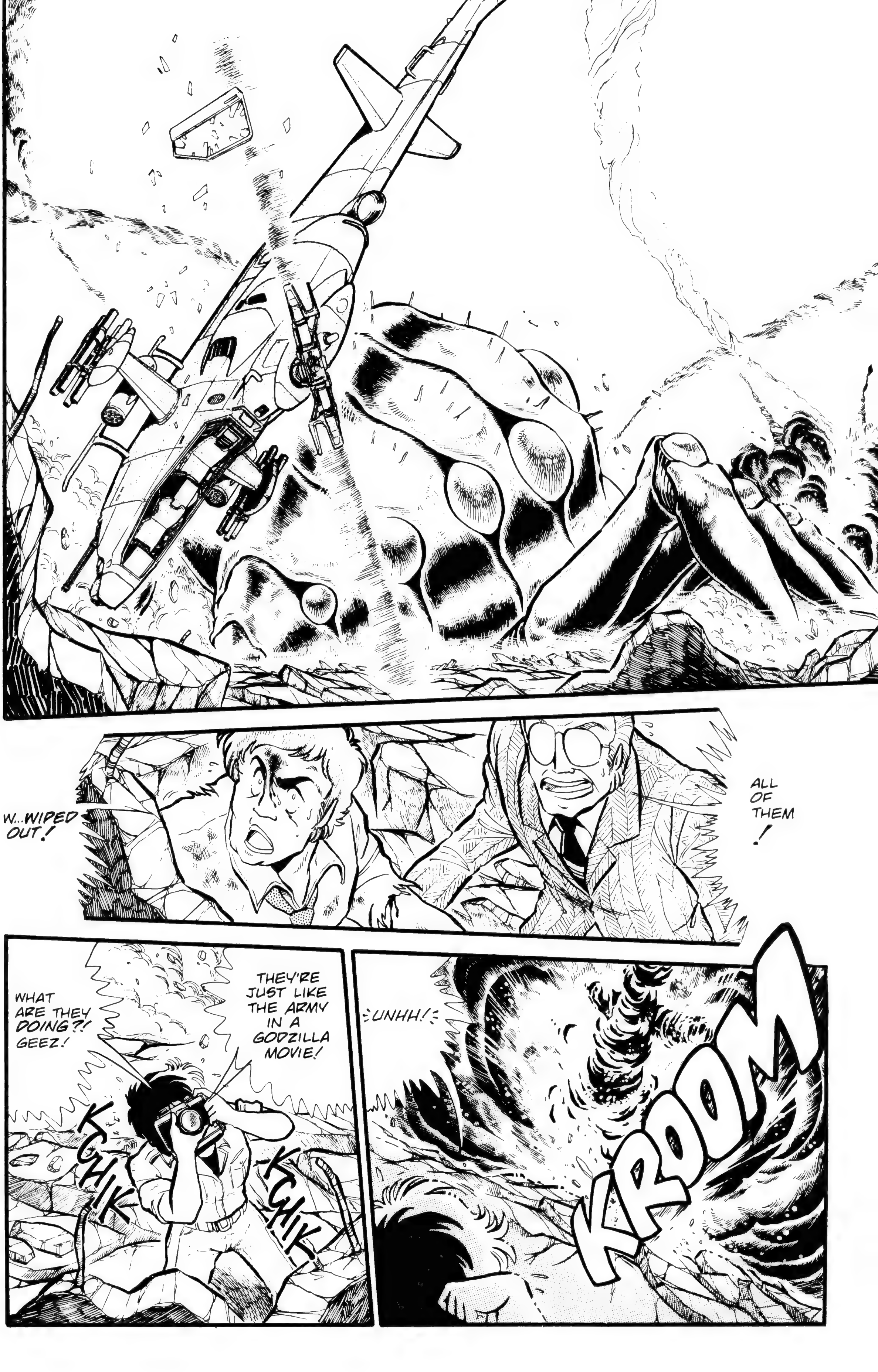

IT'S THE JSDF!
COMMAND CENTER, WE HAVE TARGET ACQUISITION.
ESTIMATED HEIGHT, 700 FEET. THAT'S A HELL OF A LOT BIGGER THAN YOU TOLD US!
ARMY

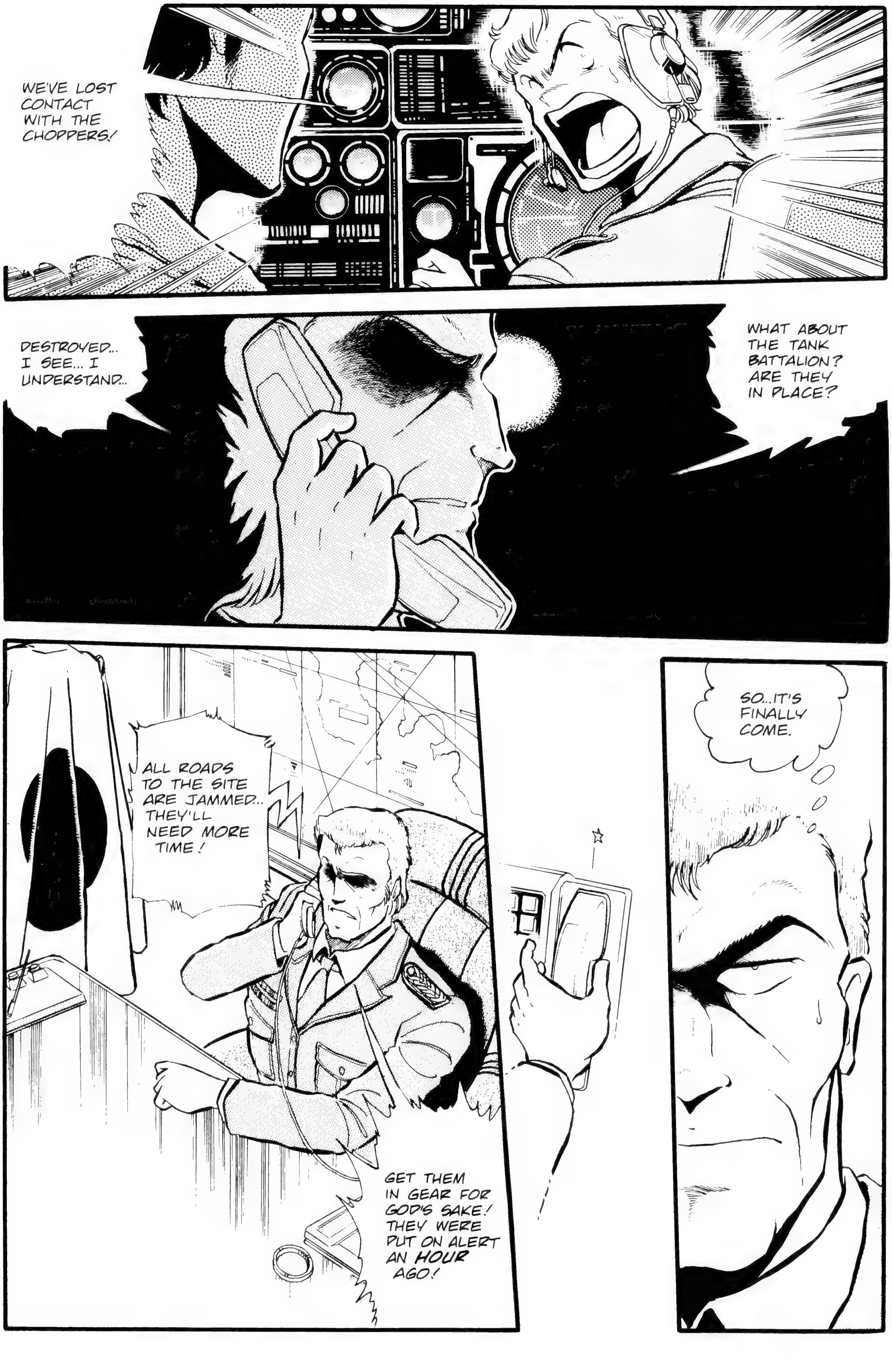
JAPAN SELF DEFENSE FORCE. JAPAN'S STANDING ARMY.

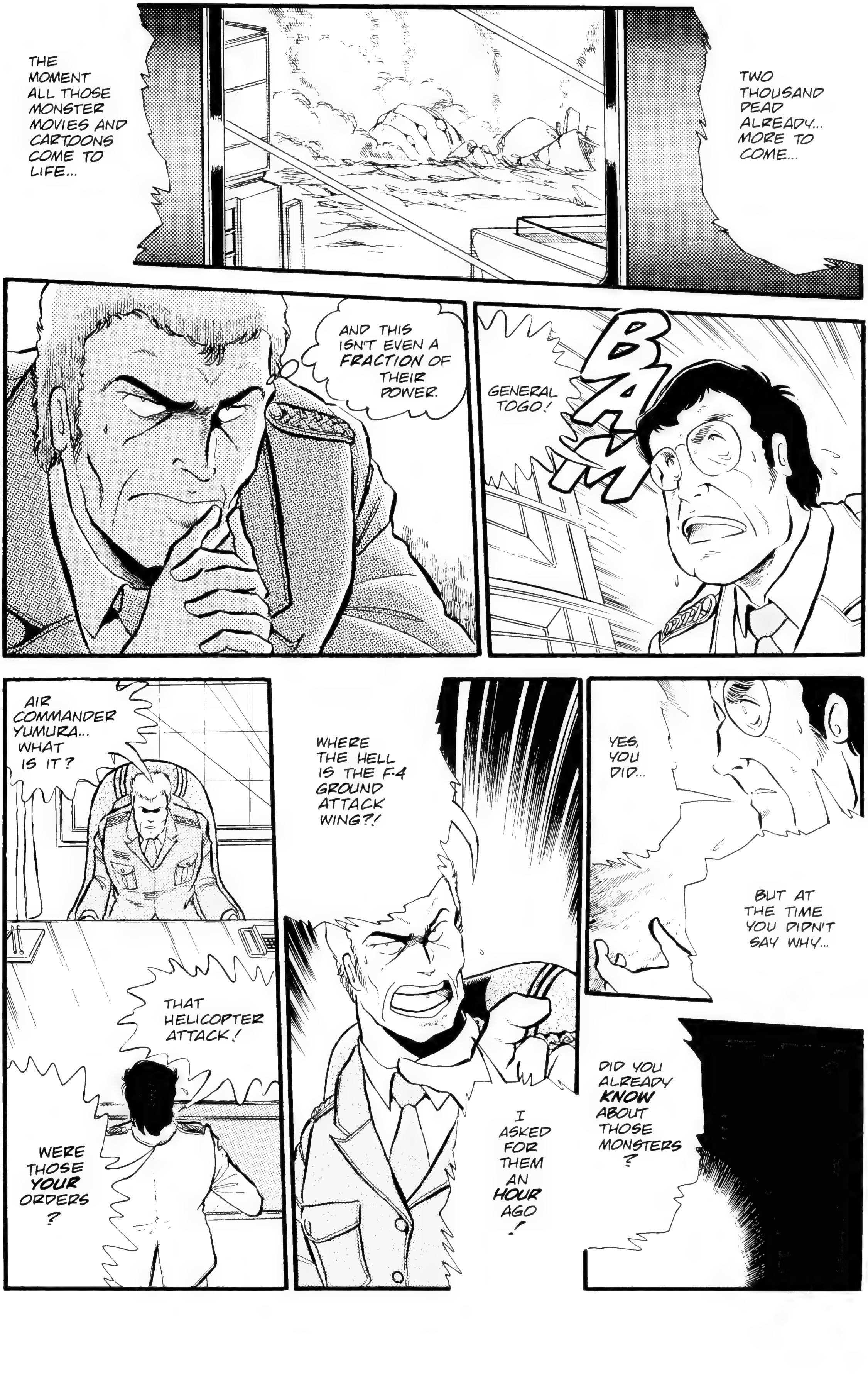

HOLY HELL!
I'LL GET **CREAMED** IF I STAY HERE!
STEADY NOW... IT'S TOO BIG TO MISS.
JUST LIKE IN TRAINING. NO PROBLEM...
SHEEOOWW
SHEEOOWW

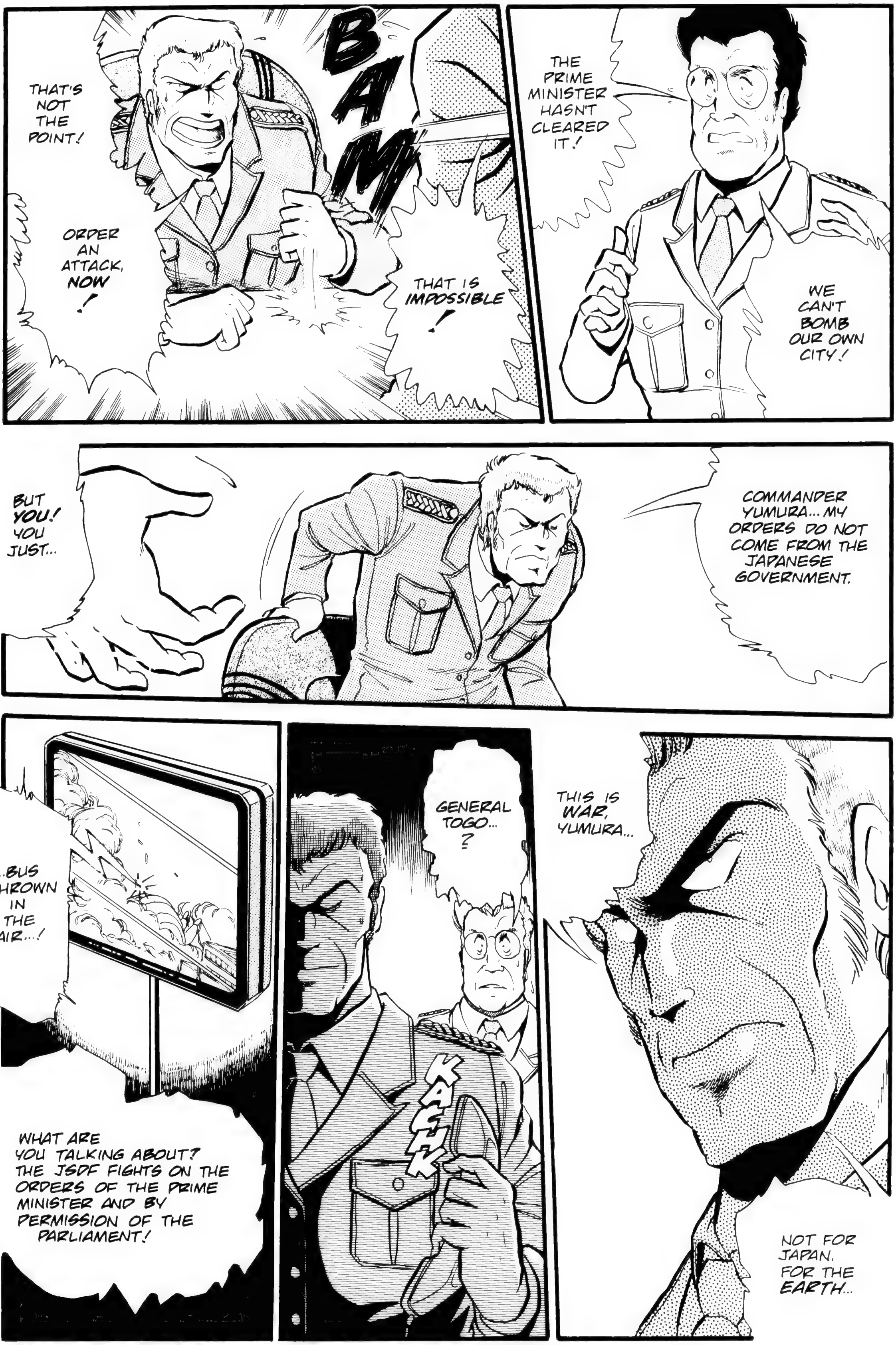

KKOOM
KROOM
ALL RIGHT!
DID WE GET IT ?!
NO... WAIT...

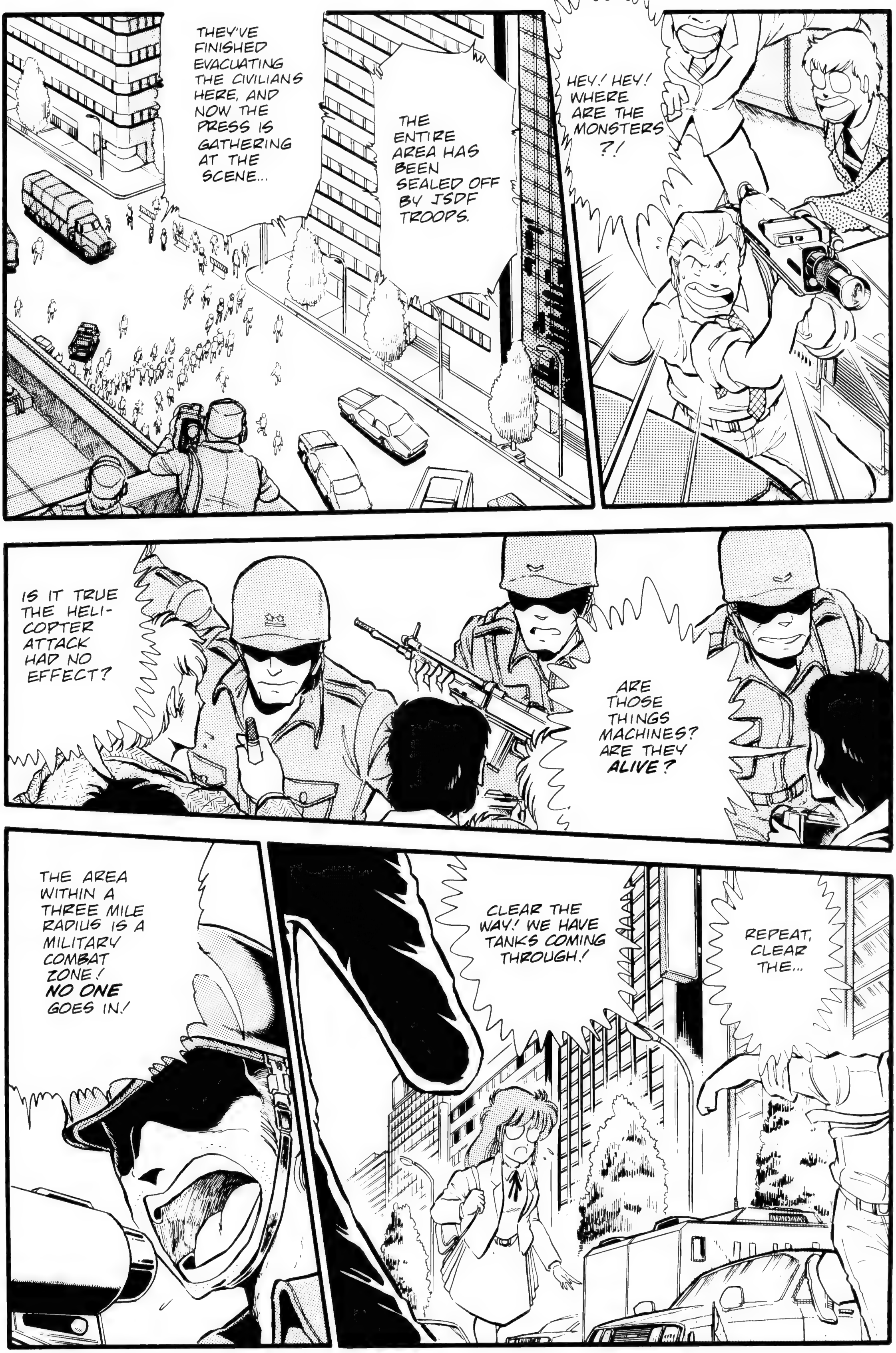

SKRNCH
WHAT THE HELL?! NOT A SCRATCH!
I'LL COME AROUND AGAIN! THIS TIME GIVE IT ALL THE ROCKETS!
GHAA!

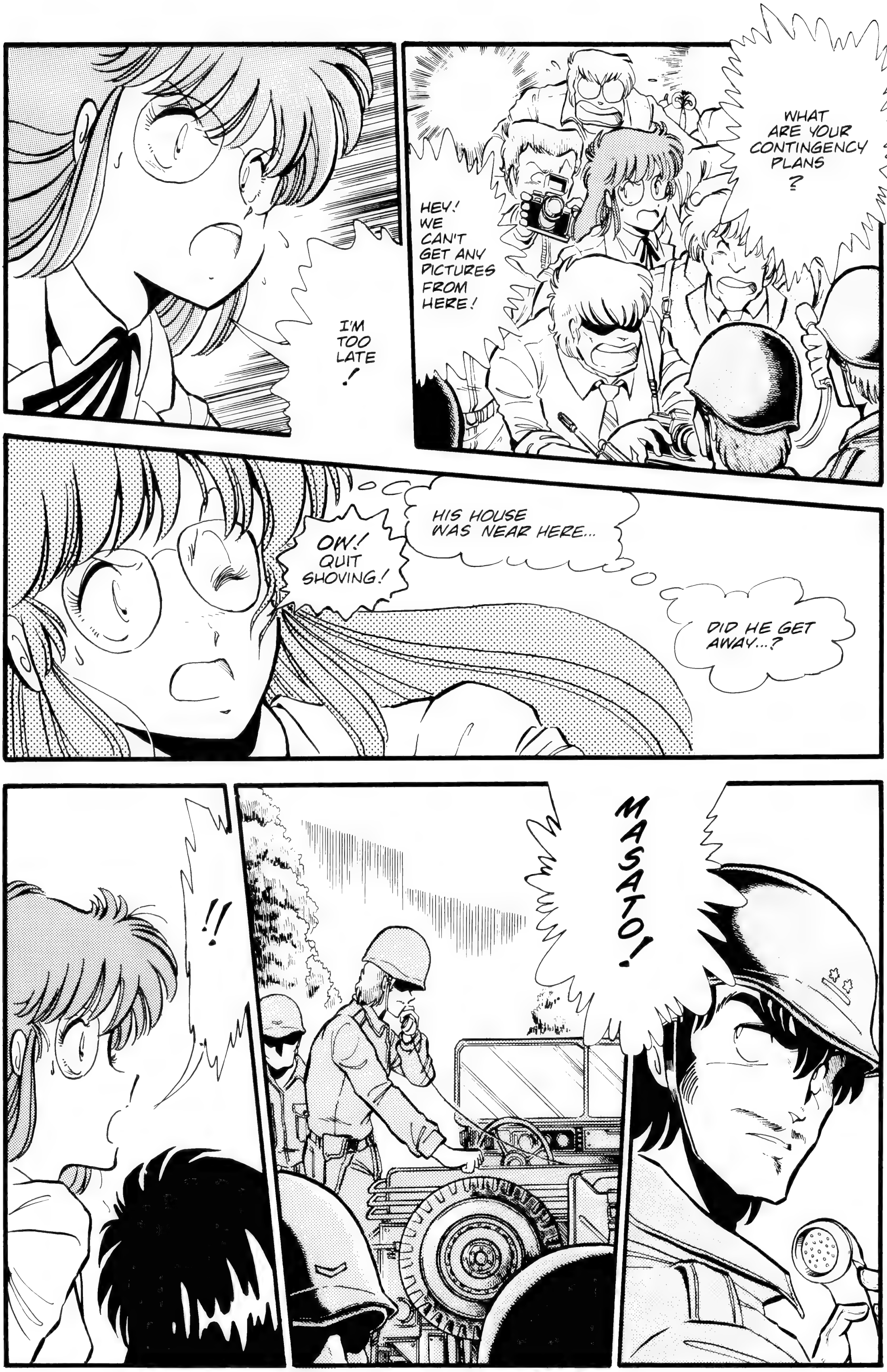

W...WIPED OUT!
ALL OF THEM!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?! GEEZ!
THEY'RE JUST LIKE THE ARMY IN A GODZILLA MOVIE!
KCHIK
KCHIK
UNHH!
KROOM

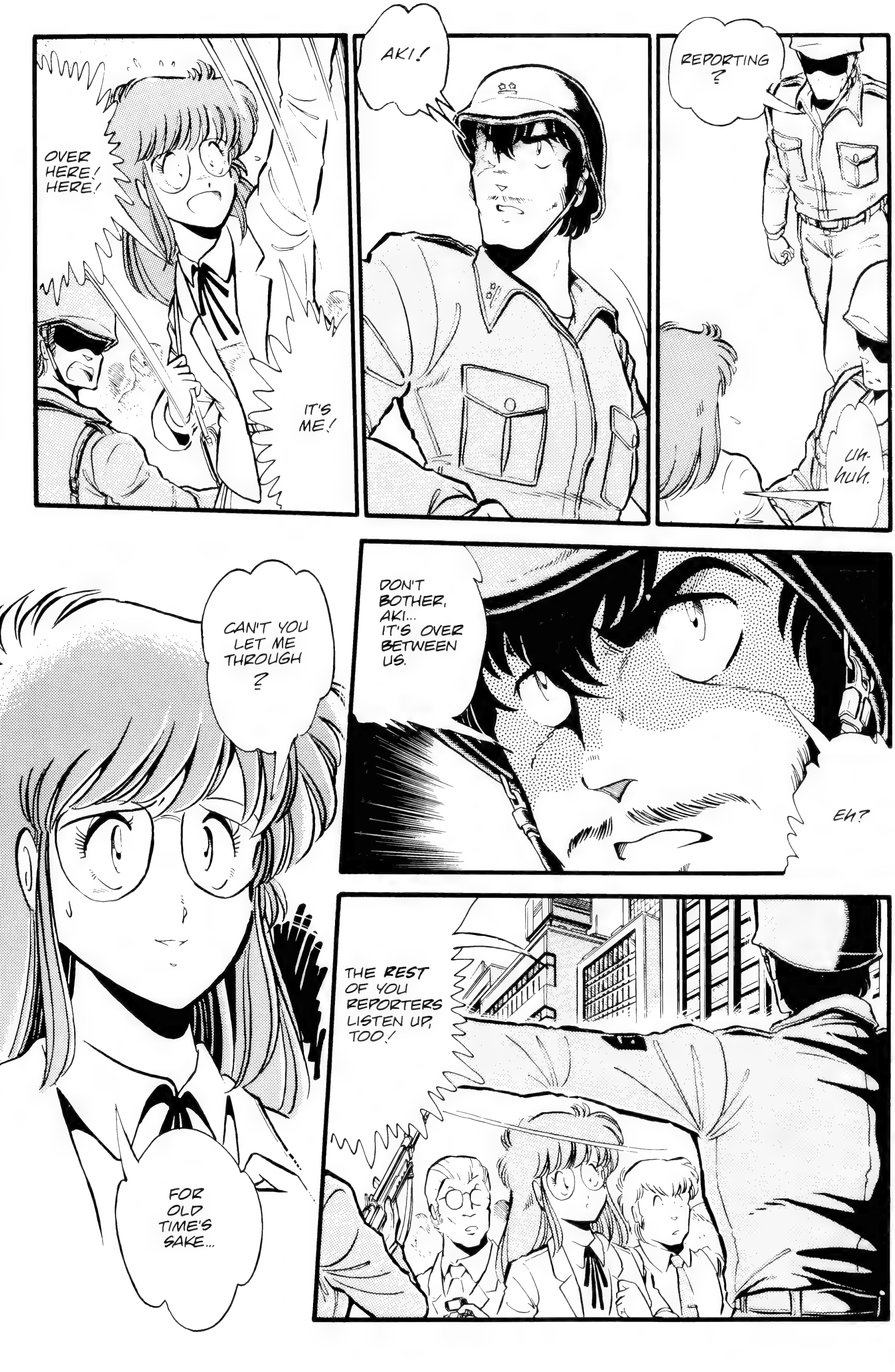

WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH THE CHOPPERS!
DESTROYED... I SEE... I UNDERSTAND..
WHAT ABOUT THE TANK BATTALION? ARE THEY IN PLACE?
ALL ROADS TO THE SITE ARE JAMMED... THEY'LL NEED MORE TIME!
GET THEM IN GEAR FOR GOD'S SAKE! THEY WERE PUT ON ALERT AN **HOUR** AGO!
SO...IT'S FINALLY COME.

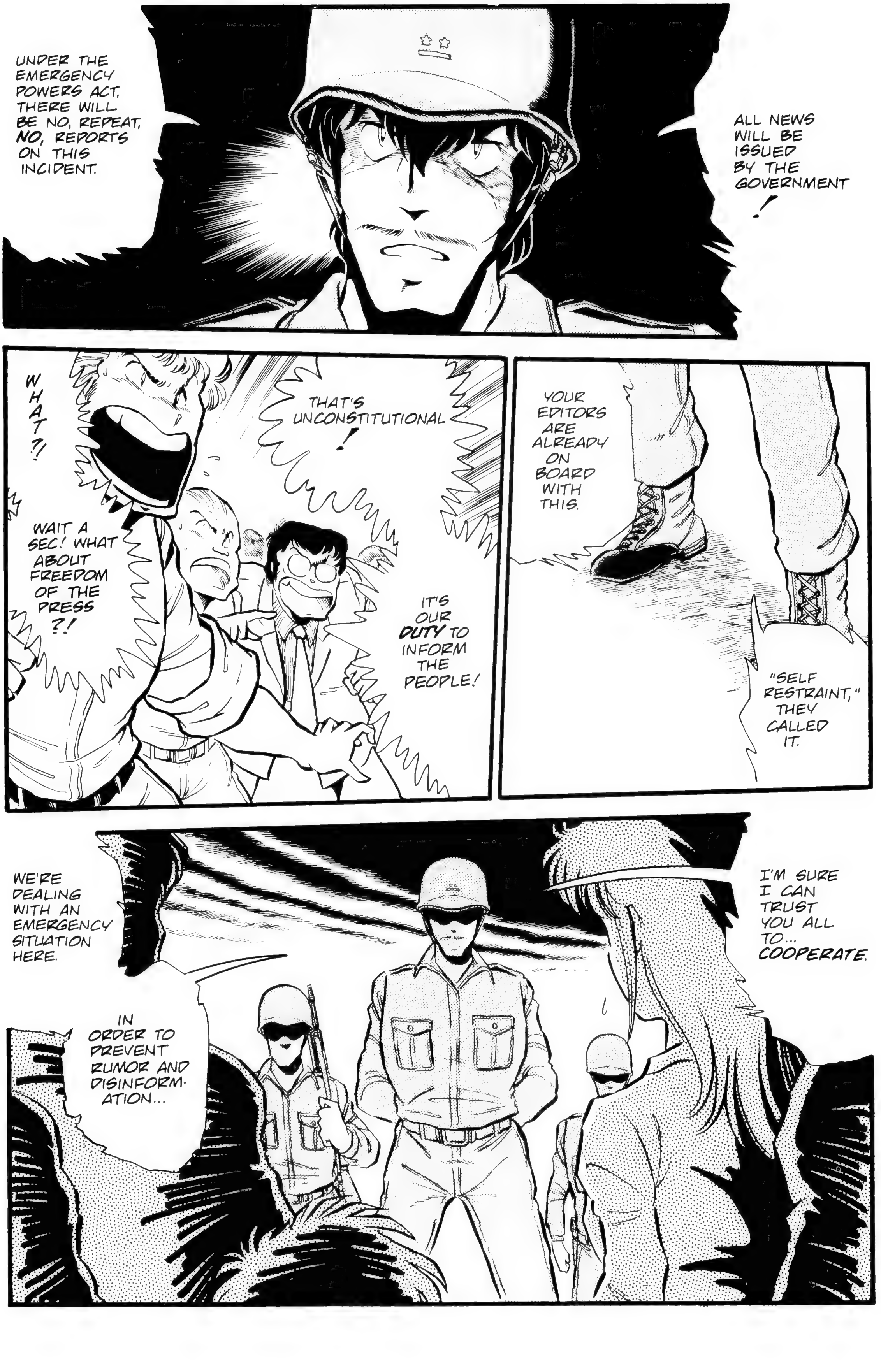

THE MOMENT ALL THOSE MONSTER MOVIES AND CARTOONS COME TO LIFE...
TWO THOUSAND DEAD ALREADY... MORE TO COME...
AND THIS ISN'T EVEN A FRACTION OF THEIR POWER.
BAM
GENERAL TOGO!
AIR COMMANDER YUMURA... WHAT IS IT?
THAT HELICOPTER ATTACK!
WERE THOSE YOUR ORDERS?
WHERE THE HELL IS THE F-4 GROUND ATTACK WING?!
I ASKED FOR THEM AN HOUR AGO!
YES, YOU DID...
BUT AT THE TIME YOU DIDN'T SAY WHY...
DID YOU ALREADY KNOW ABOUT THOSE MONSTERS?

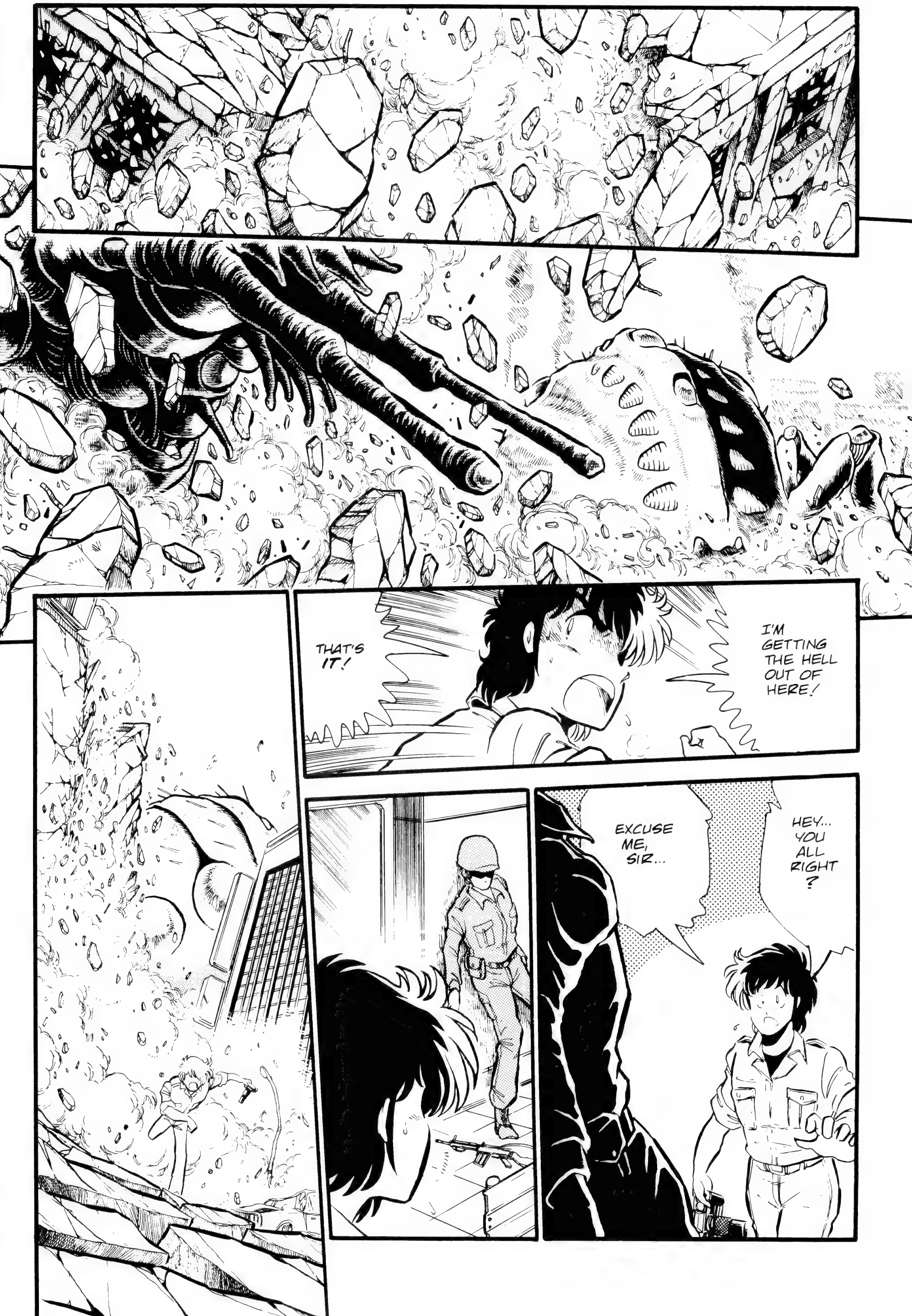

THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
ORDER AN ATTACK, NOW!
BAM
THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE!
THE PRIME MINISTER HASN'T CLEARED IT!
WE CAN'T BOMB OUR OWN CITY!
BUT YOU! YOU JUST...
COMMANDER YUMURA... MY ORDERS DO NOT COME FROM THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.
...BUS THROWN IN THE AIR...!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THE JSDF FIGHTS ON THE ORDERS OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND BY PERMISSION OF THE PARLIAMENT!
GENERAL TOGO...?
KACHK
THIS IS WAR, YUMURA...
NOT FOR JAPAN. FOR THE EARTH...

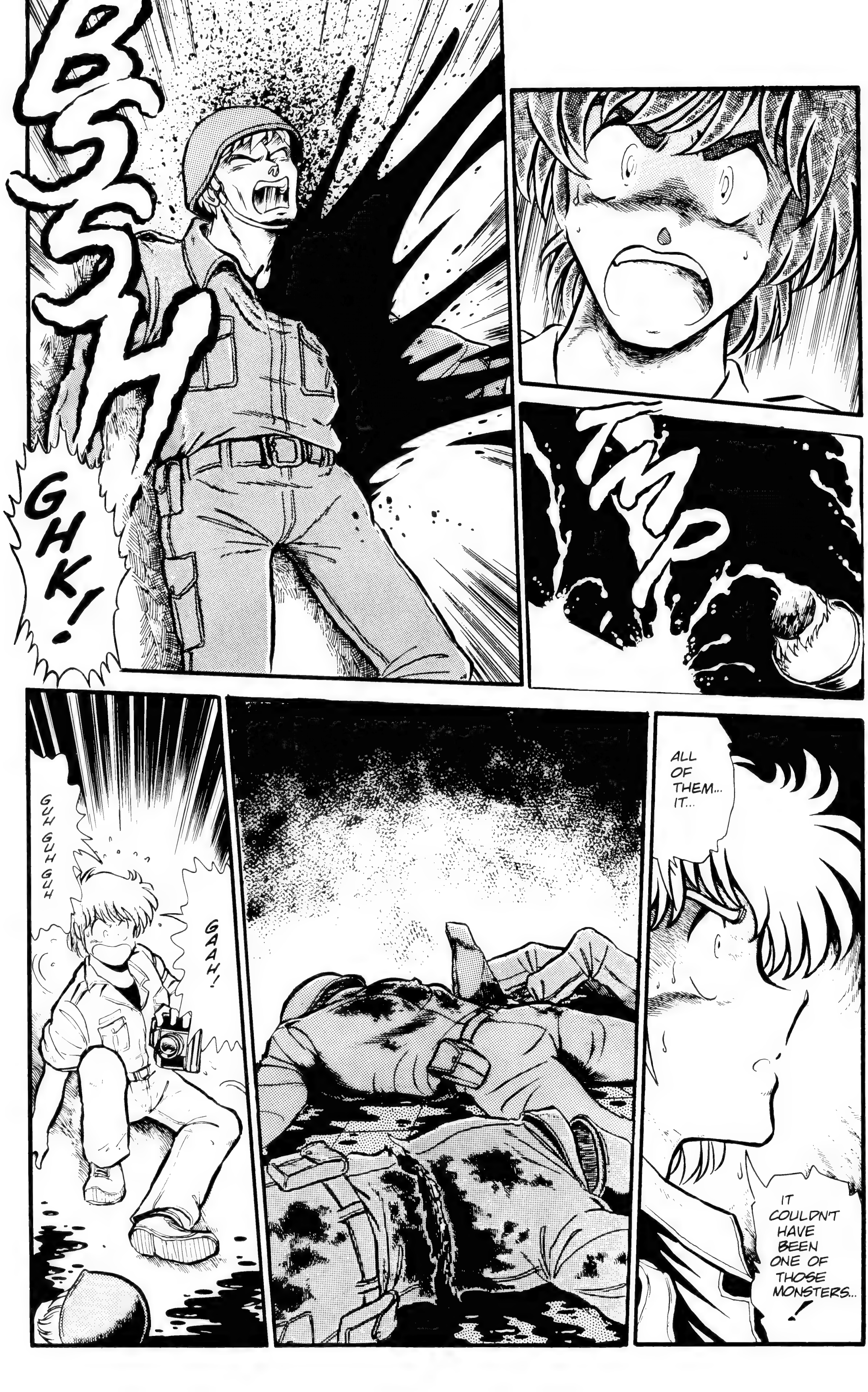

THEY'VE FINISHED EVACUATING THE CIVILIANS HERE, AND NOW THE PRESS IS GATHERING AT THE SCENE...
THE ENTIRE AREA HAS BEEN SEALED OFF BY JSDF TROOPS.
HEY! HEY! WHERE ARE THE MONSTERS ?!
IS IT TRUE THE HELICOPTER ATTACK HAD NO EFFECT?
ARE THOSE THINGS MACHINES? ARE THEY **ALIVE**?
THE AREA WITHIN A THREE MILE RADIUS IS A MILITARY COMBAT ZONE! **NO ONE** GOES IN!
CLEAR THE WAY! WE HAVE TANKS COMING THROUGH!
REPEAT, CLEAR THE...

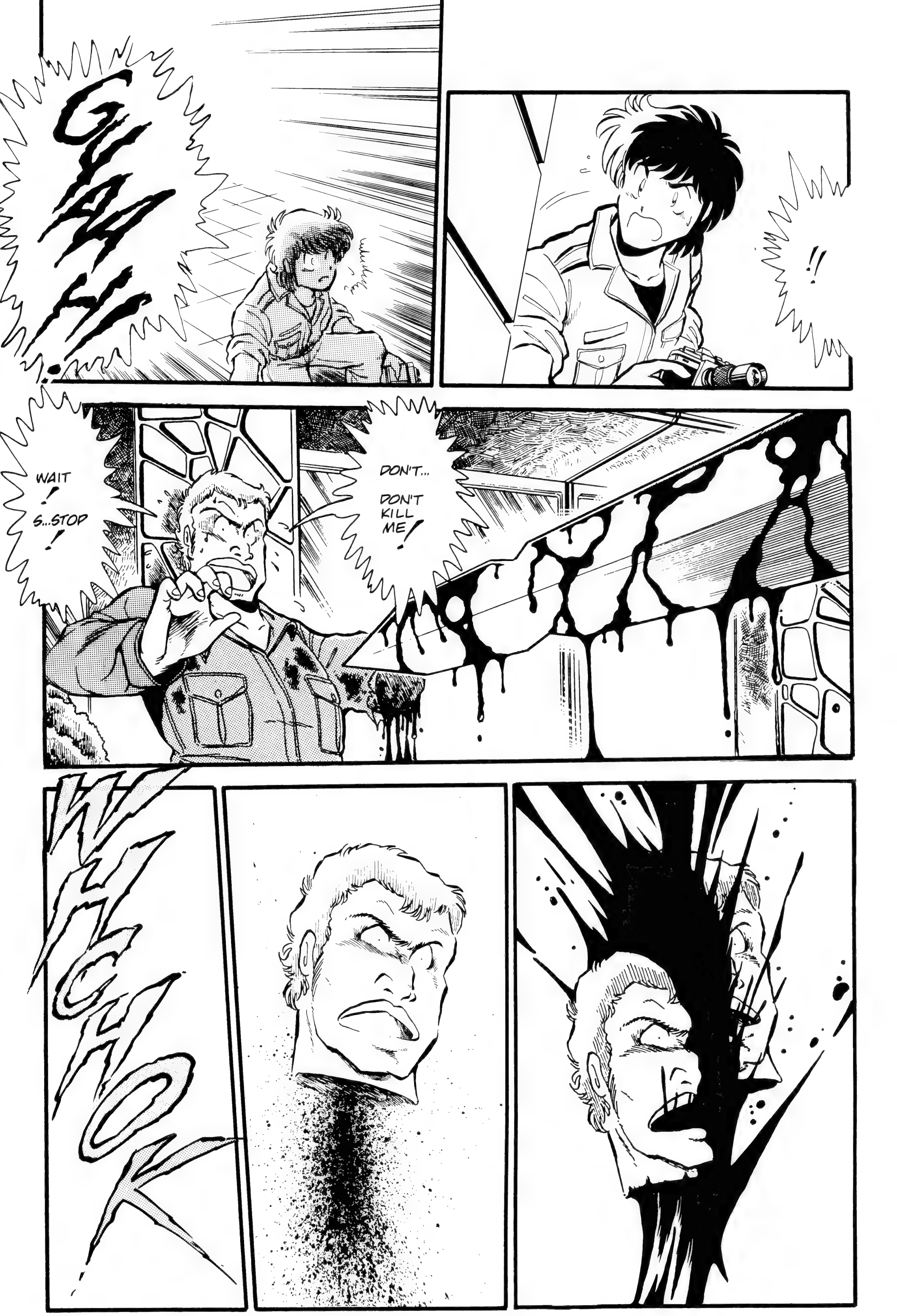

I'M TOO LATE!
HEY! WE CAN'T GET ANY PICTURES FROM HERE!
WHAT ARE YOUR CONTINGENCY PLANS?
OW! QUIT SHOVING!
HIS HOUSE WAS NEAR HERE...
DID HE GET AWAY...?
!!
MASATO!

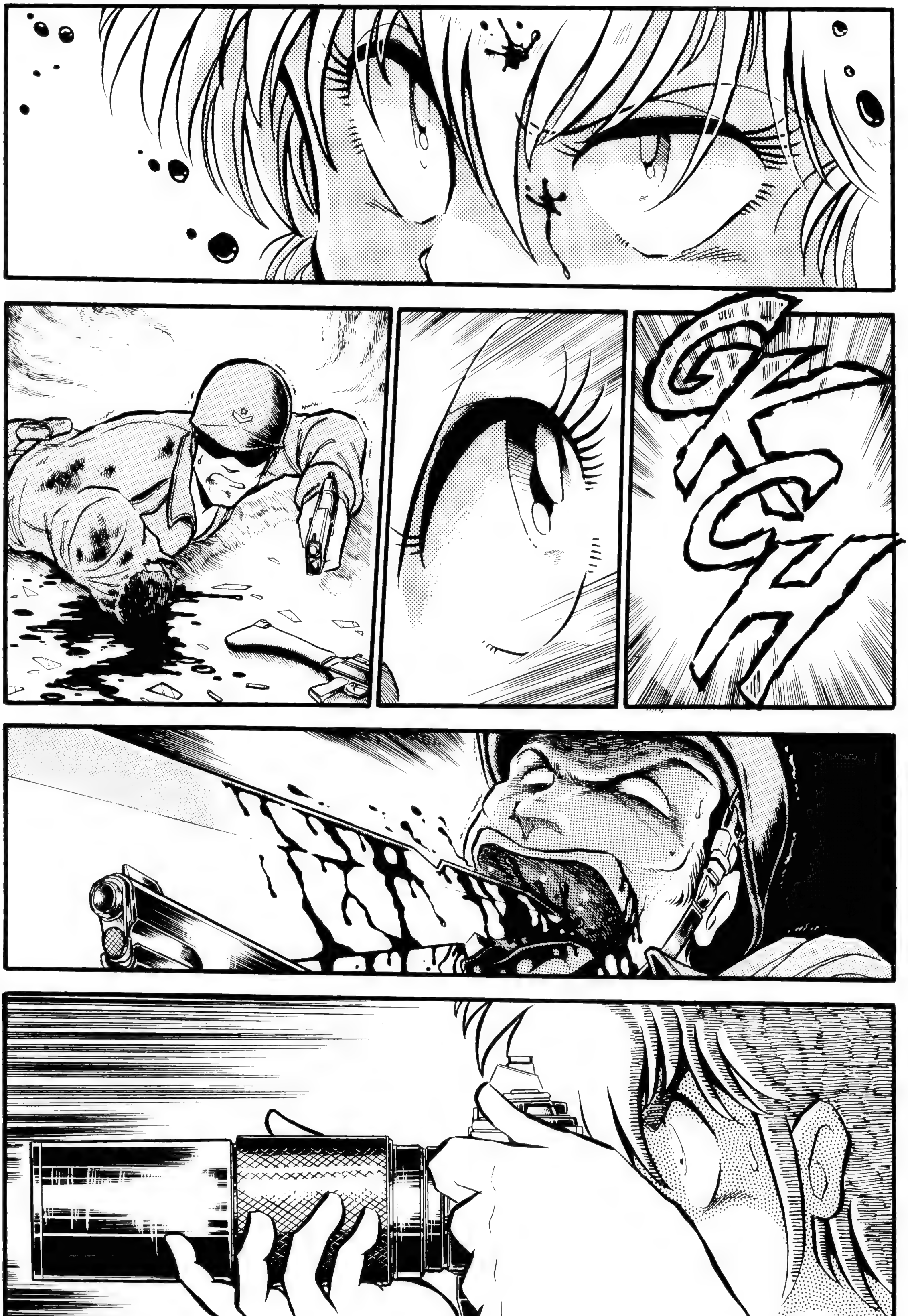

OVER HERE! HERE!
IT'S ME!
AKI!
REPORTING?
Uh-huh.
CAN'T YOU LET ME THROUGH?
FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE...
DON'T BOTHER, AKI... IT'S OVER BETWEEN US.
Eh?
THE **REST** OF YOU REPORTERS LISTEN UP, TOO!

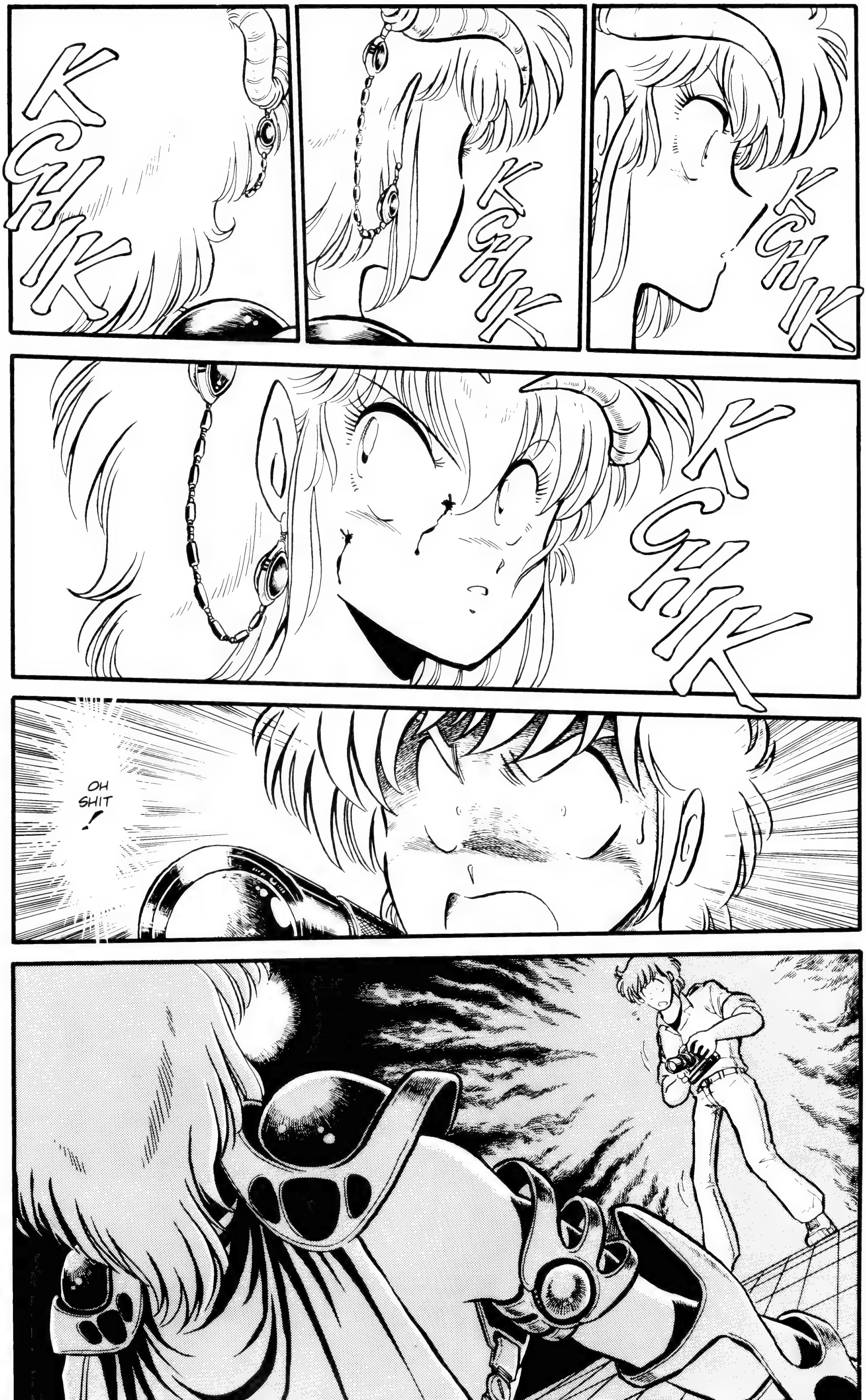

UNDER THE EMERGENCY POWERS ACT, THERE WILL BE NO, REPEAT, **NO**, REPORTS ON THIS INCIDENT.
ALL NEWS WILL BE ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT!
WHAT?!
THAT'S UNCONSTITUTIONAL!
WAIT A SEC! WHAT ABOUT FREEDOM OF THE PRESS?!
IT'S OUR ***DUTY*** TO INFORM THE PEOPLE!
YOUR EDITORS ARE ALREADY ON BOARD WITH THIS.
"SELF RESTRAINT," THEY CALLED IT.
WE'RE DEALING WITH AN EMERGENCY SITUATION HERE.
IN ORDER TO PREVENT RUMOR AND DISINFORMATION...
I'M SURE I CAN TRUST YOU ALL TO... ***COOPERATE.***

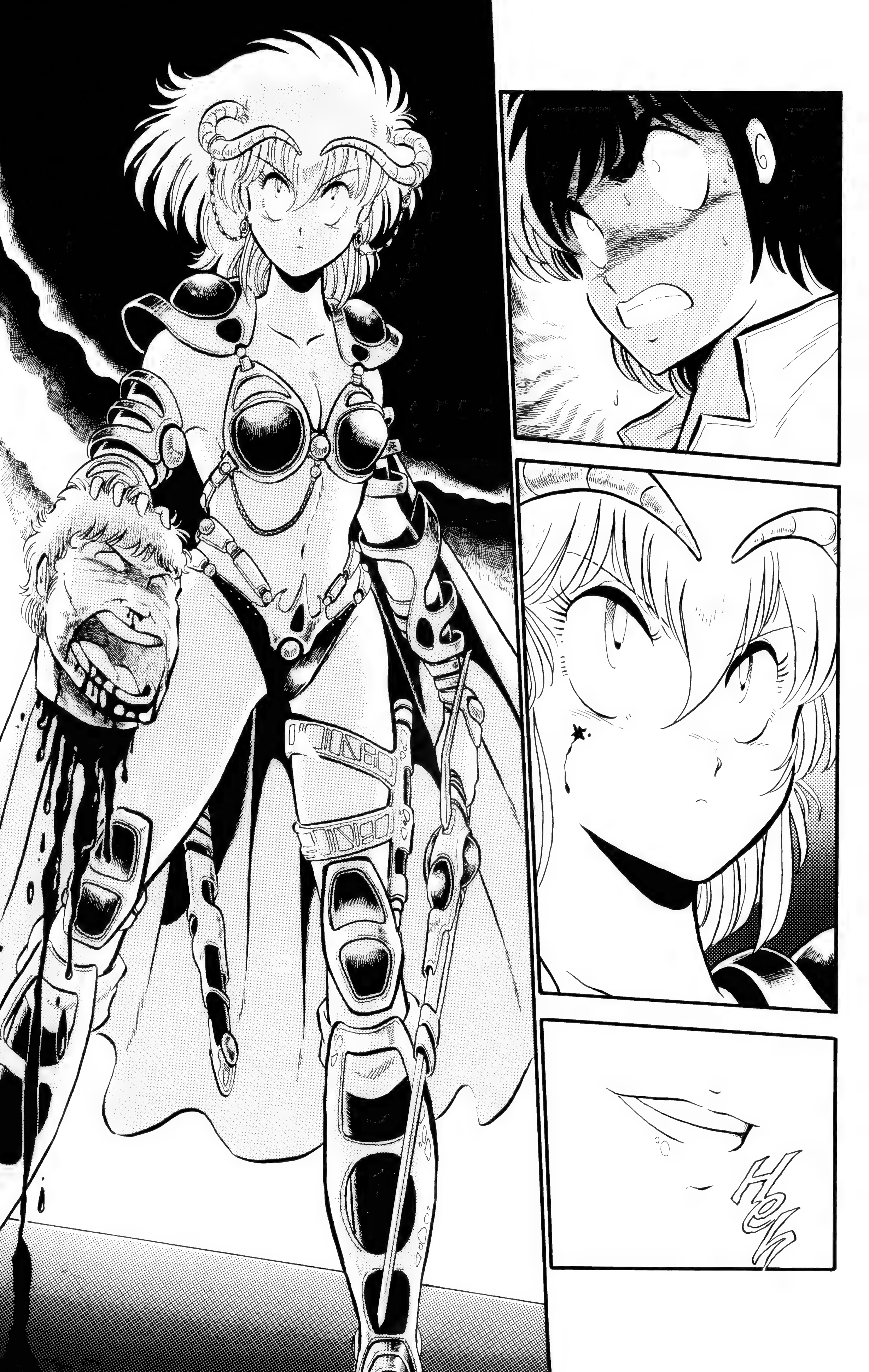

THAT'S IT!
I'M GETTING THE HELL OUT OF HERE!
EXCUSE ME, SIR...
HEY... YOU ALL RIGHT?

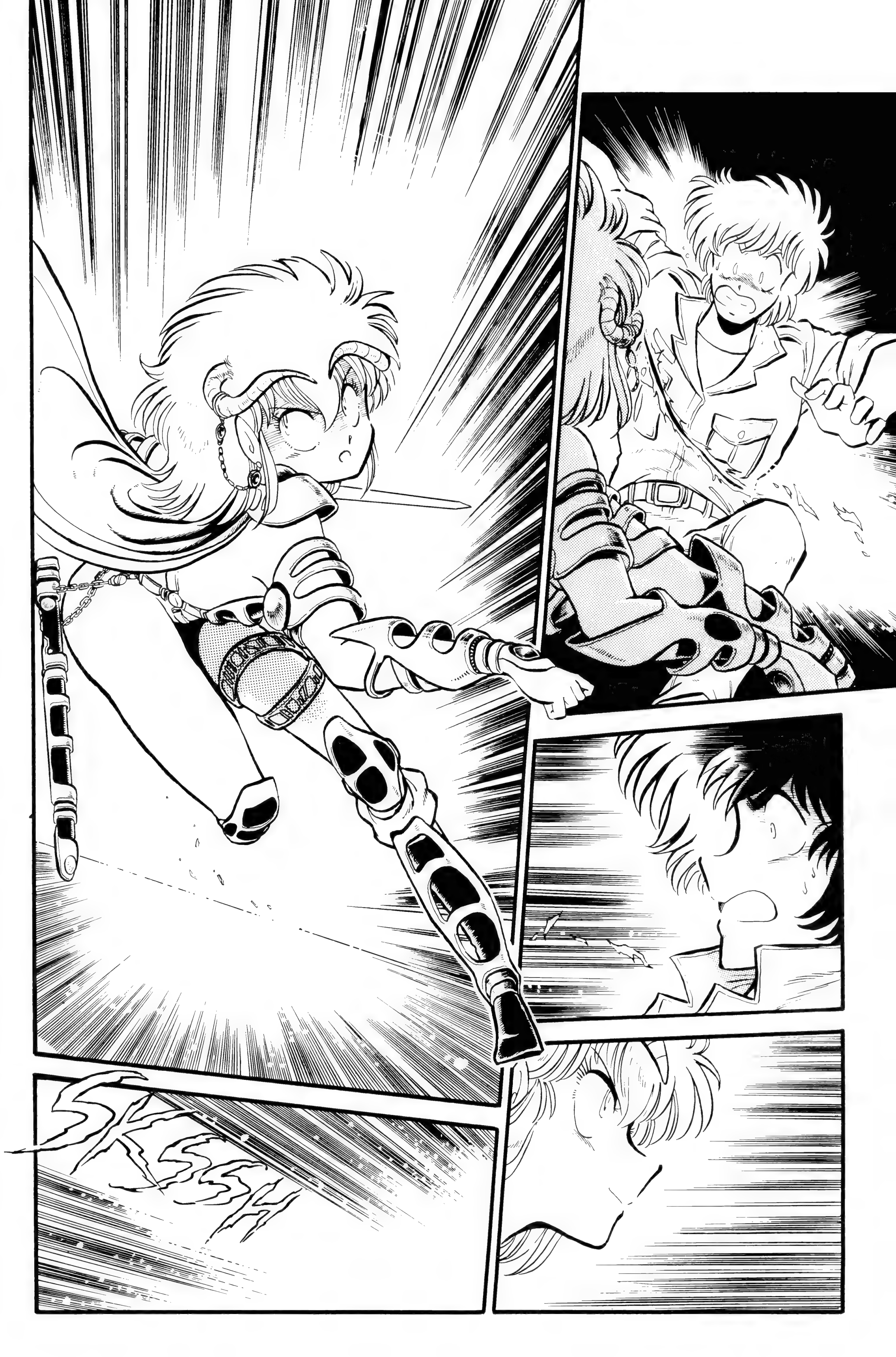

BASH
GHK!
TMP
GUH GUH GUH
GAAH!
ALL OF THEM... IT...
IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN ONE OF THOSE MONSTERS...!

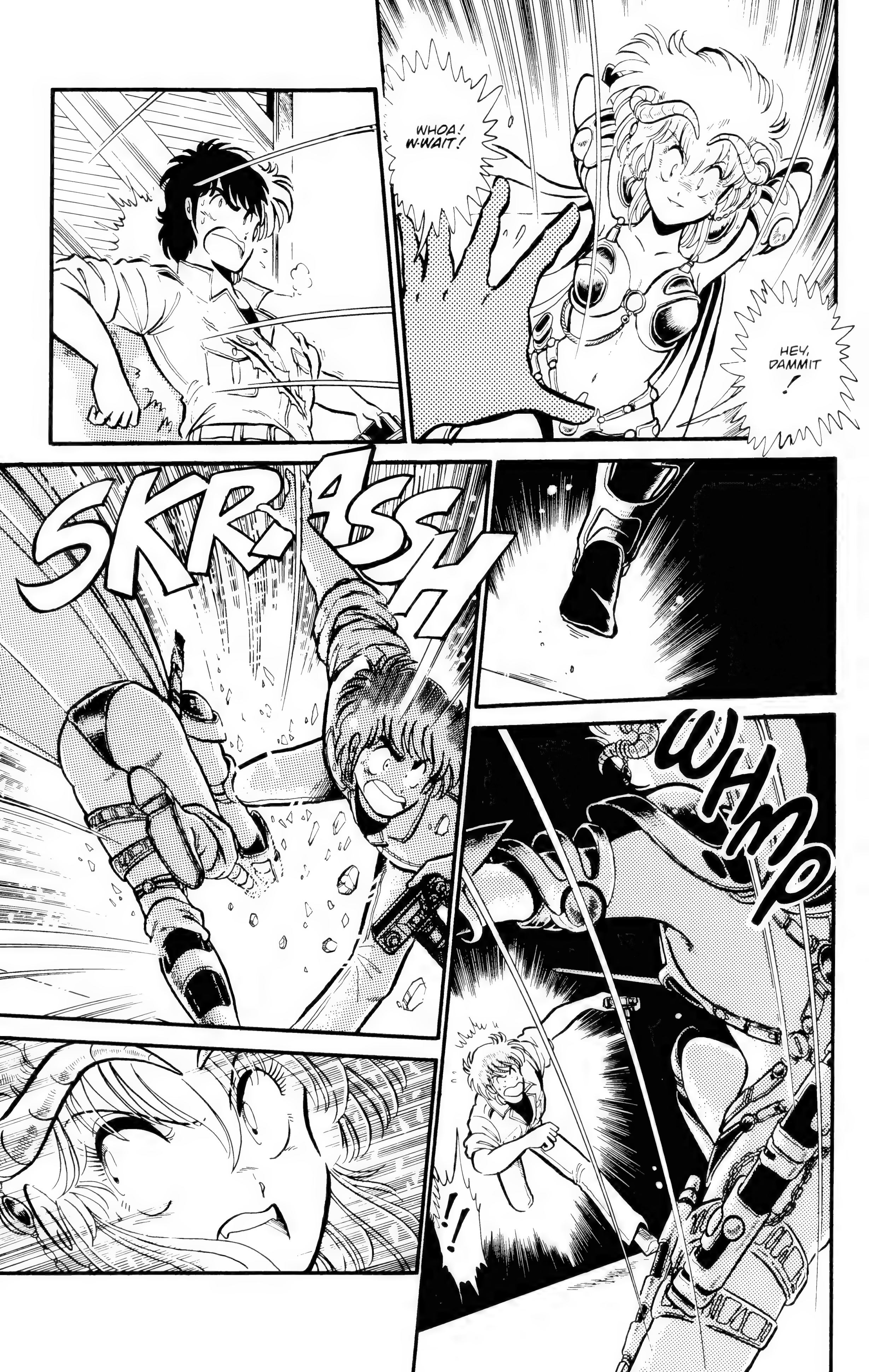

GWAH!
!!
WAIT! S...STOP!
DON'T... DON'T KILL ME!
WHCHOK

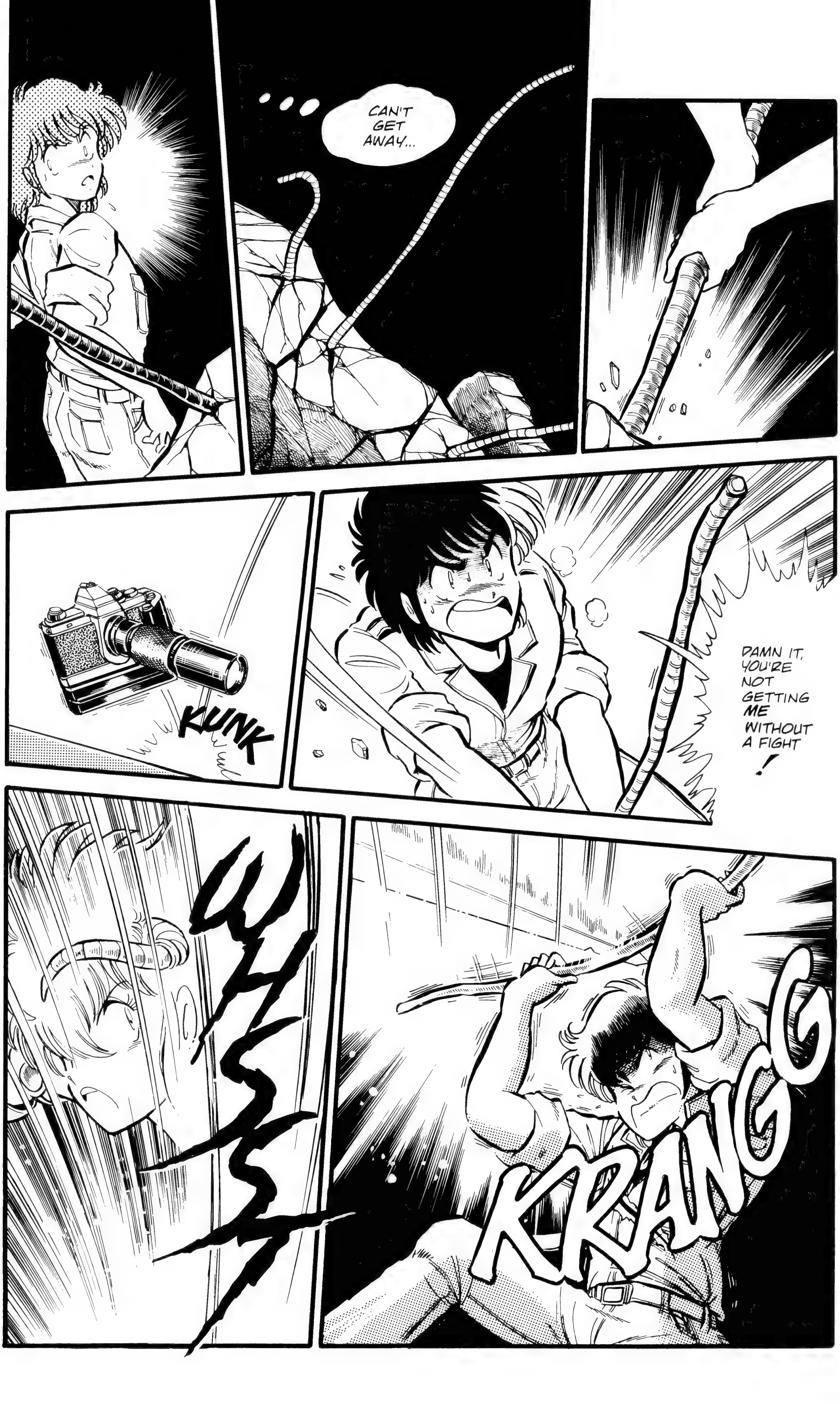

GKCH

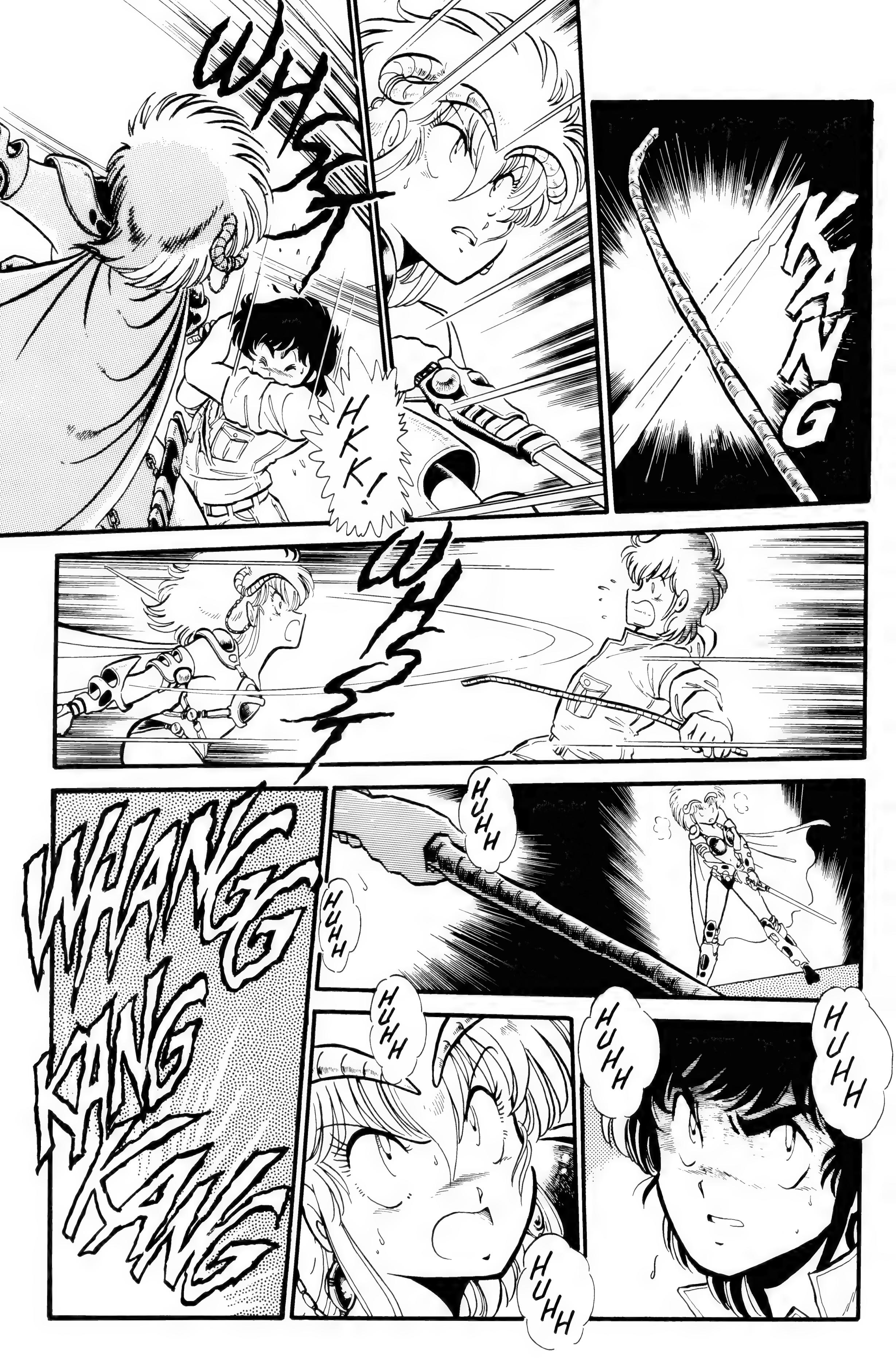

KCHIK
KCHIK
KCHIK
KCHIK
OH SHIT!

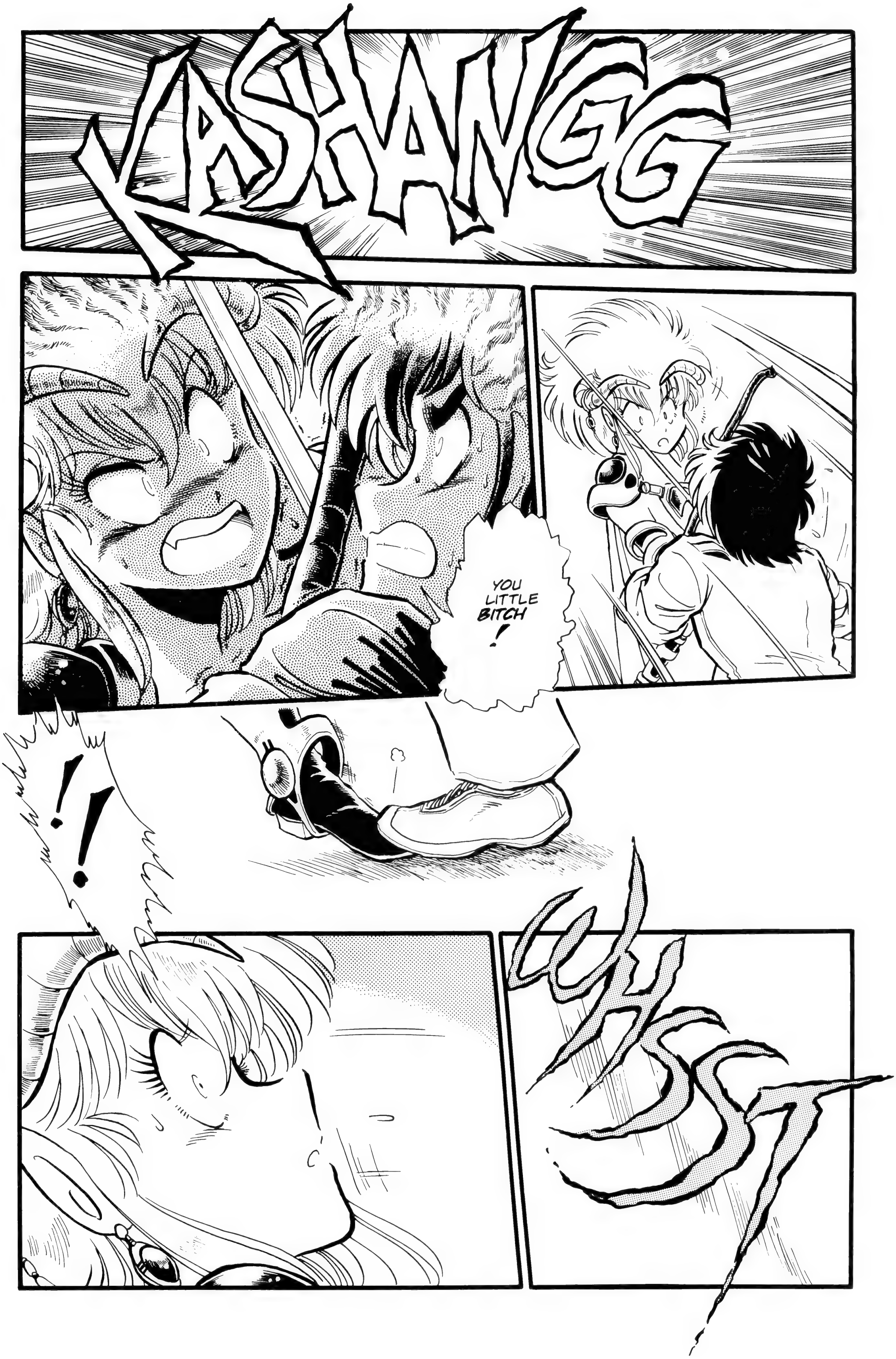

HoN

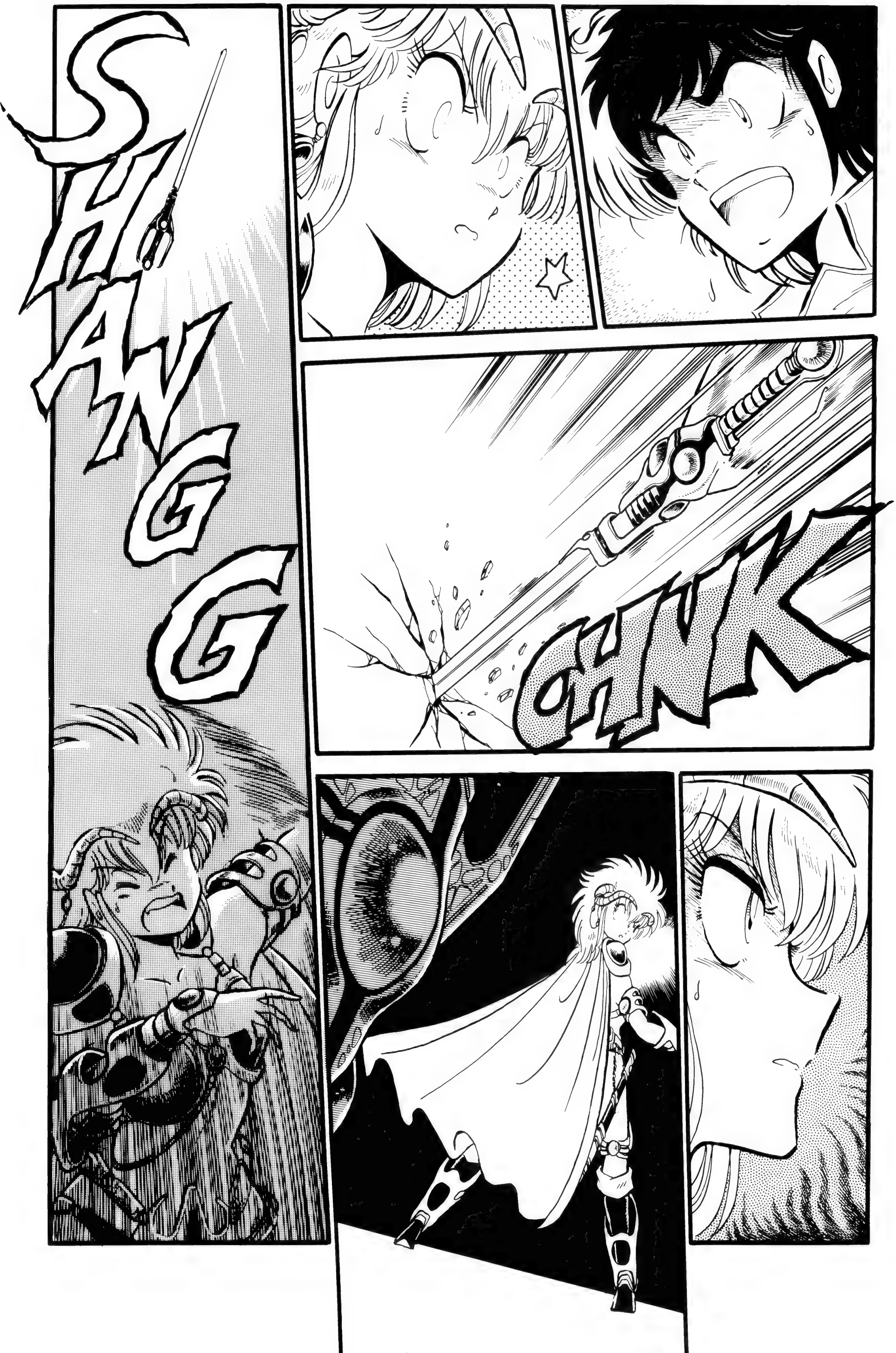

SKSSSH

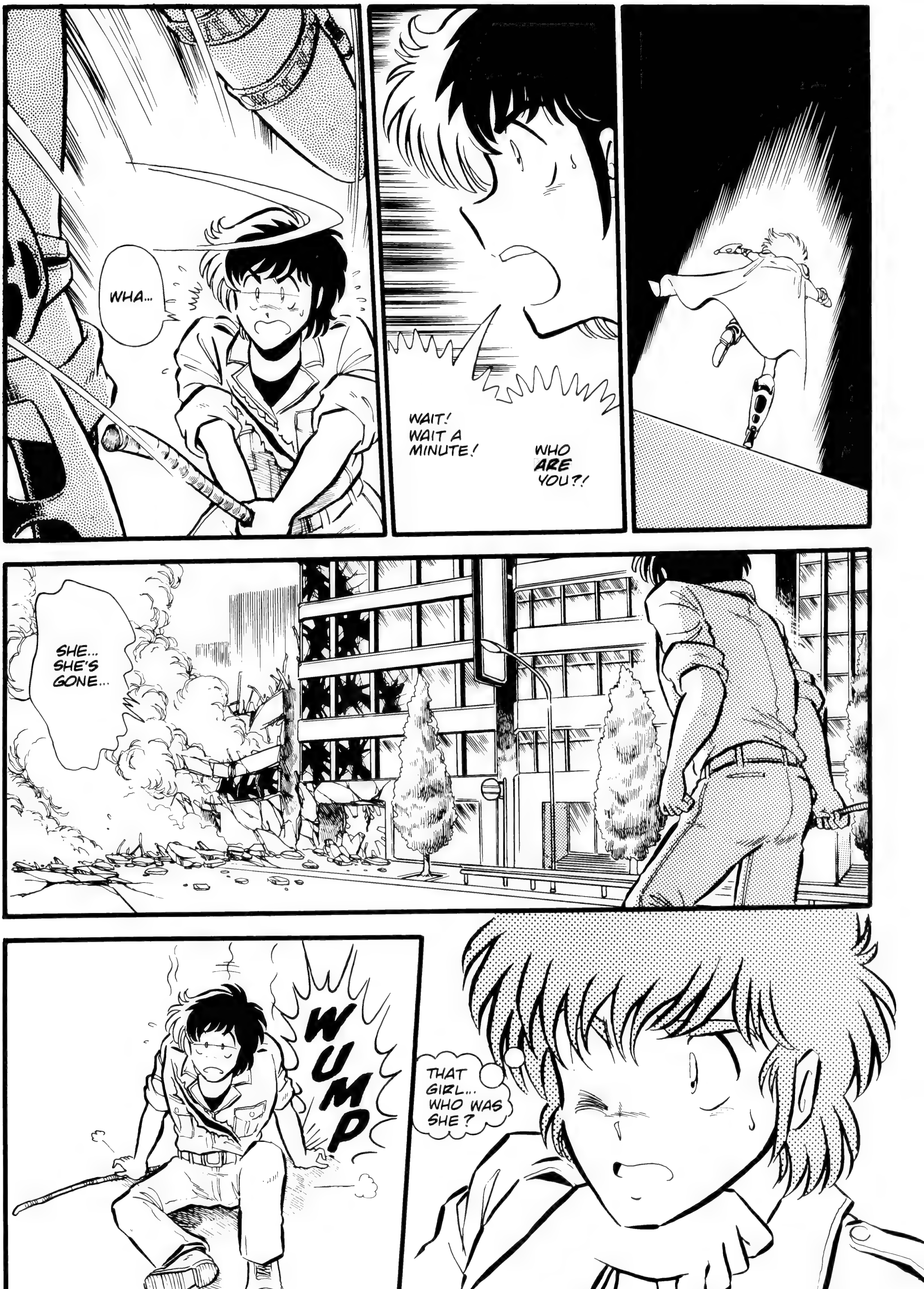

WHOA! W-WAIT!
HEY, DAMMIT!
SKRASSH
WHMP
!!

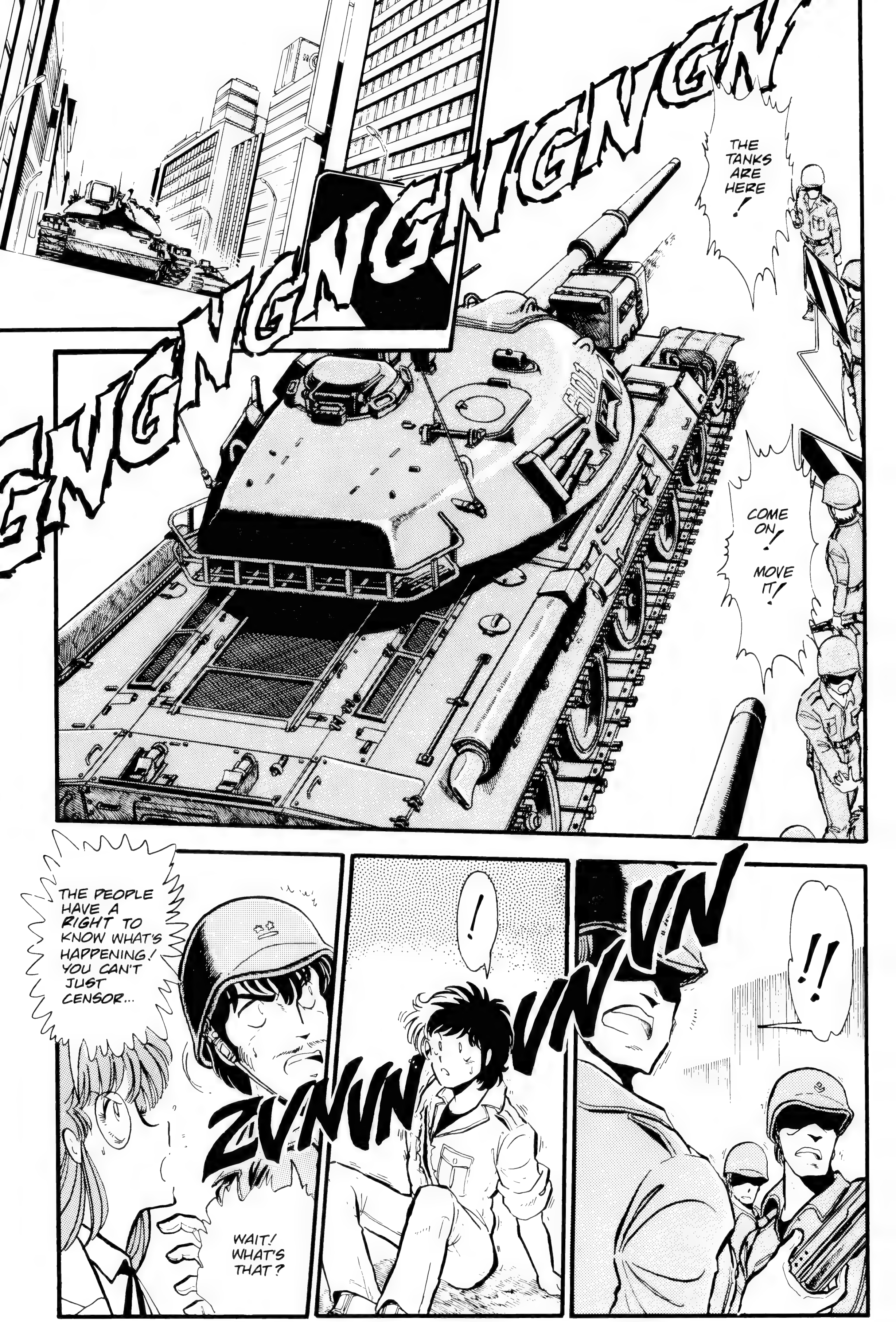

....
CAN'T GET AWAY...
KUNK
DAMN IT, YOU'RE NOT GETTING **ME** WITHOUT A FIGHT!
WHSSS
KRANGG

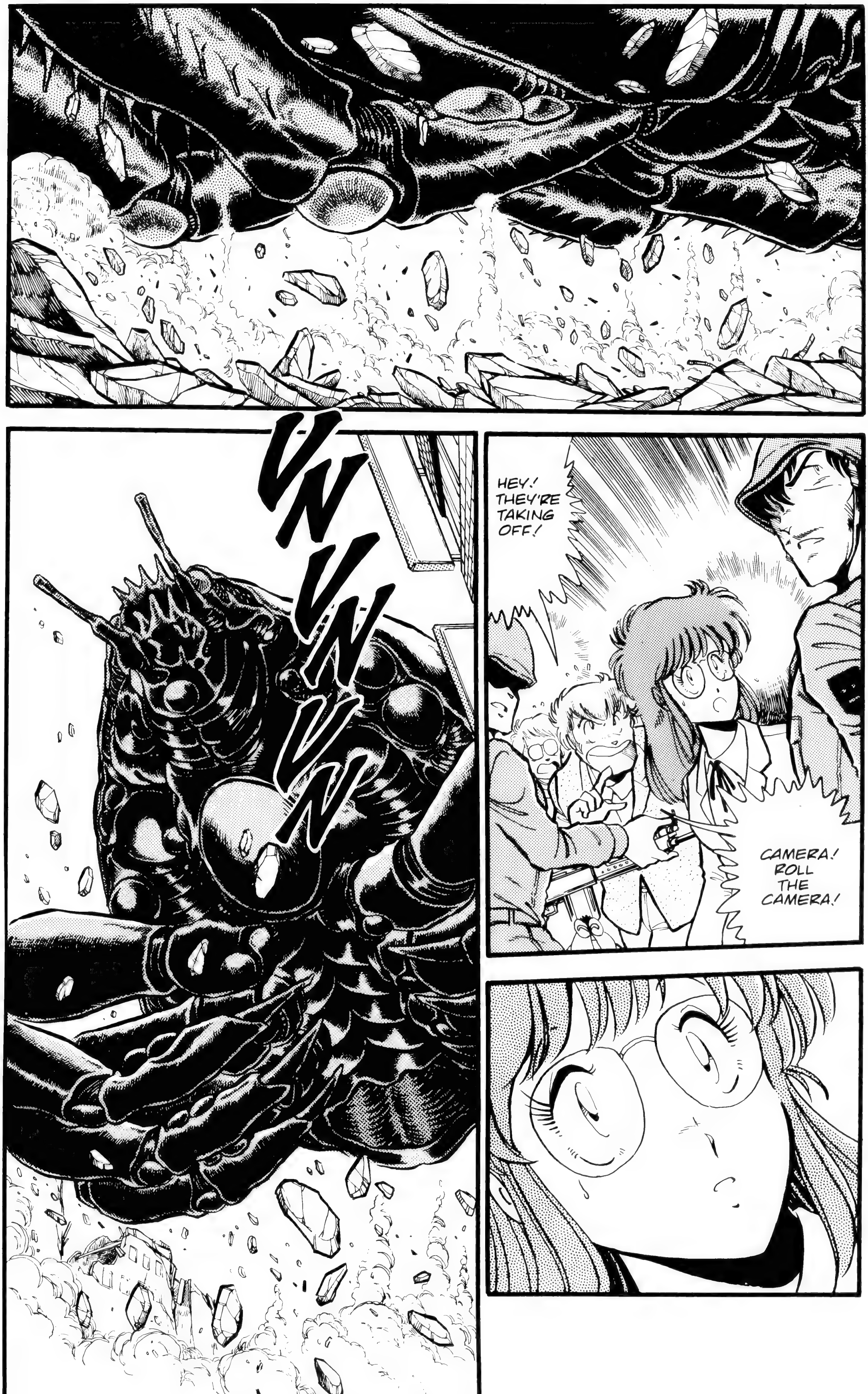

WHST
HKKK!
KANG
WHSST
WHANG
KANG
KANG
HUHH
HUHH
HUHH
HUHH
HUHH
HUHH

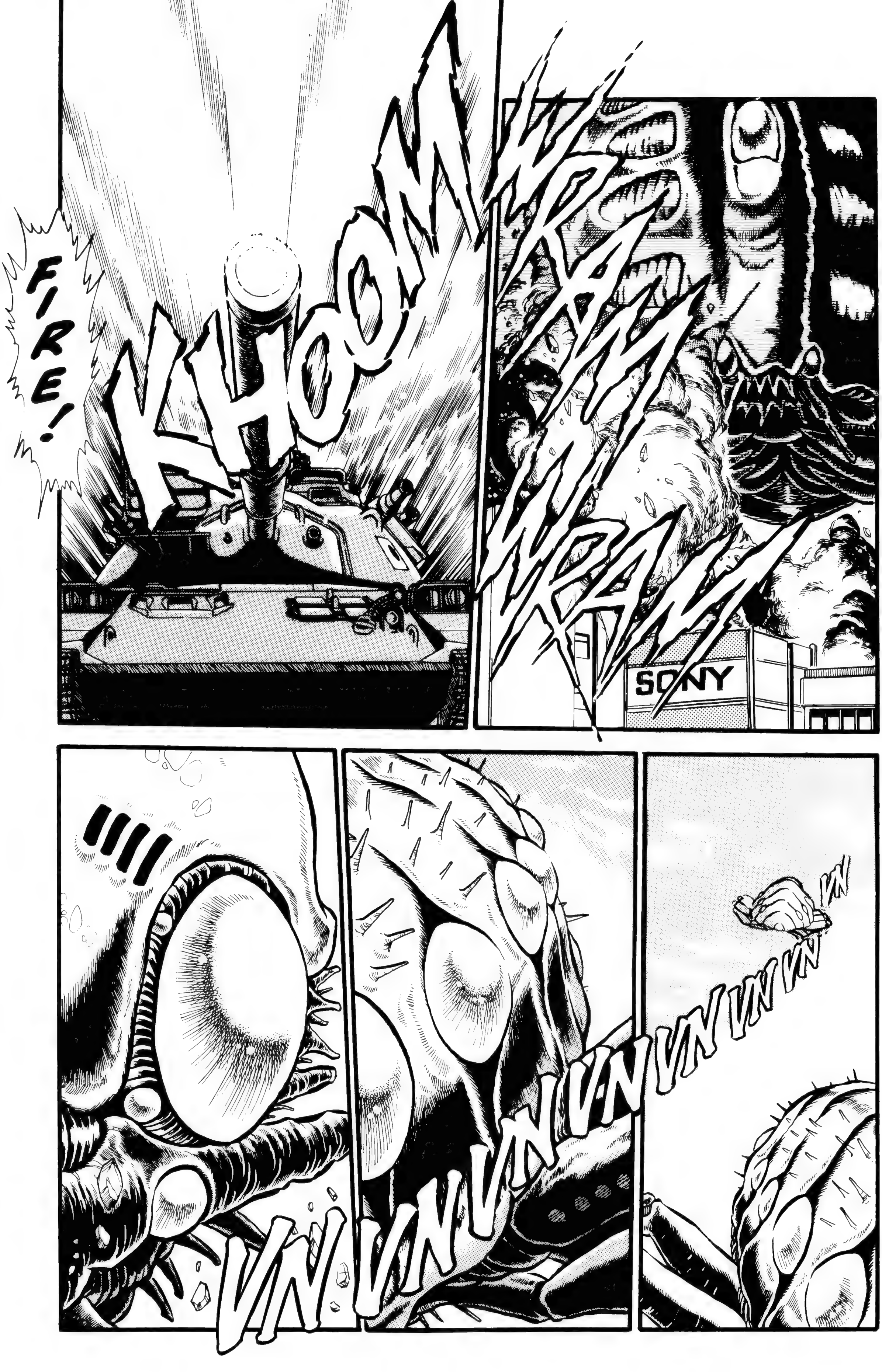

KASHANGG
YOU LITTLE BITCH!
!!
WHSST

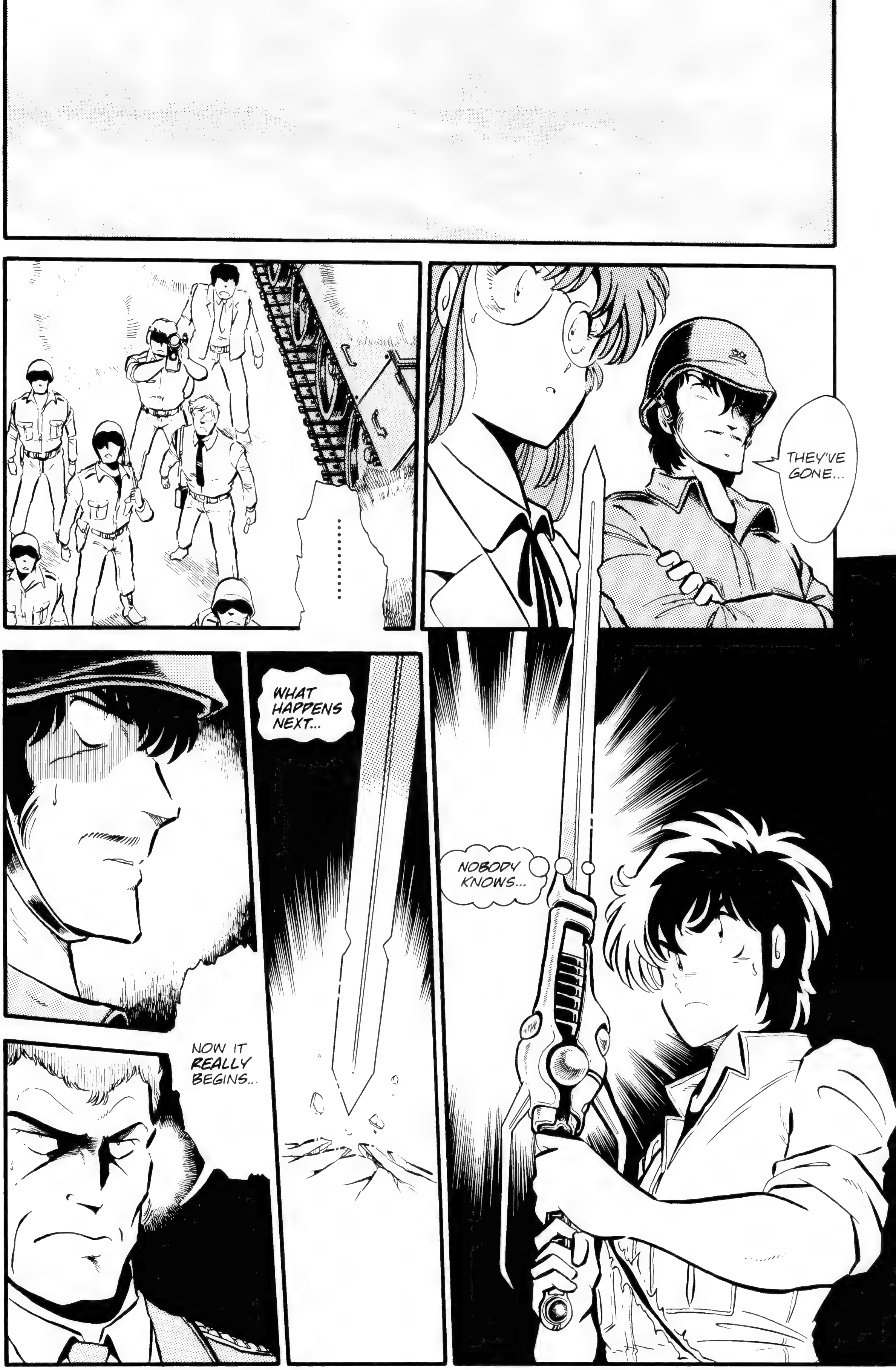

SHIANGG
CHNK

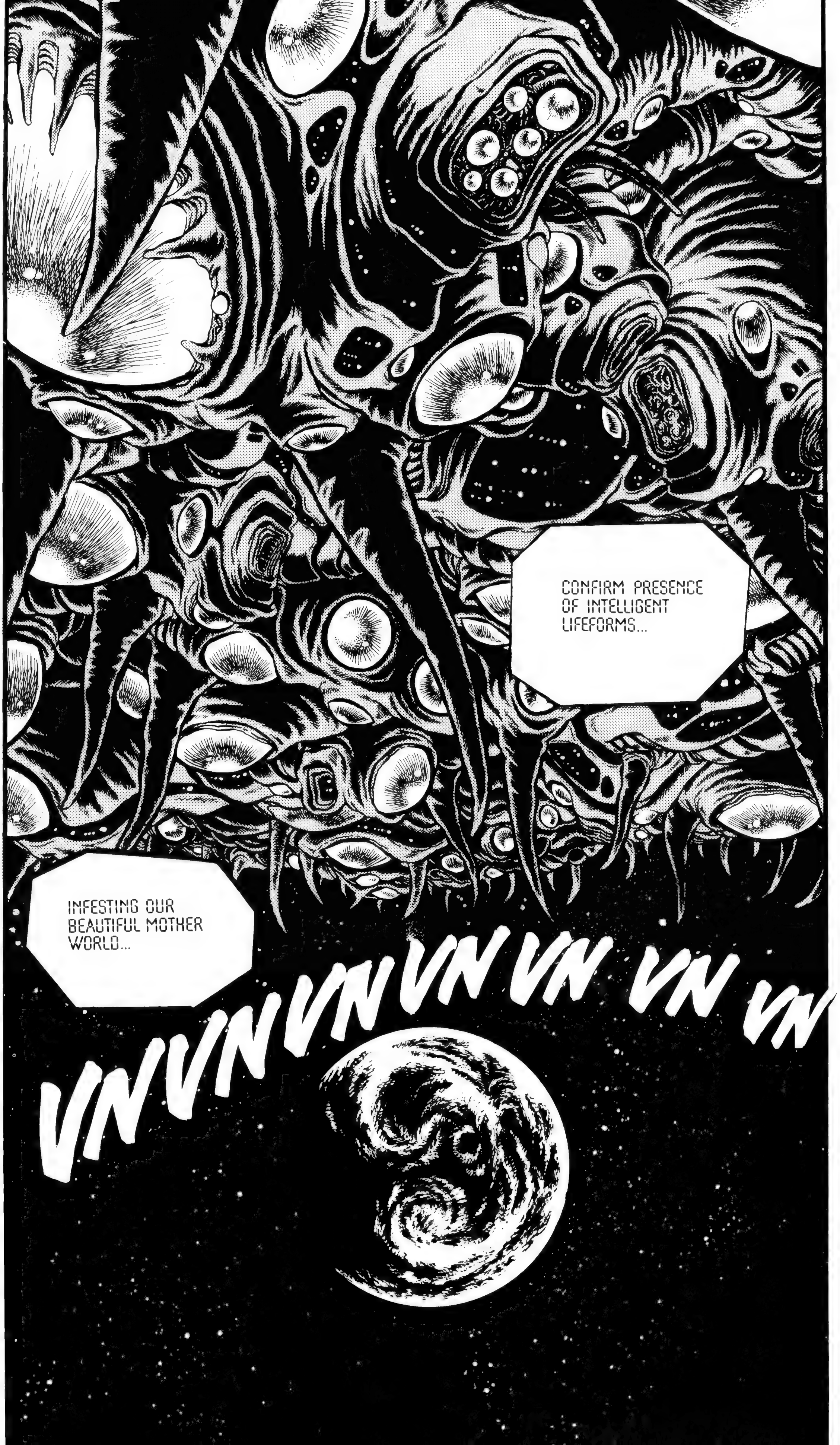

WHA...
WAIT! WAIT A MINUTE!
WHO ARE YOU?!
SHE... SHE'S GONE...
WUMP
THAT GIRL... WHO WAS SHE?


GNGNGNGNGNGNGN
THE TANKS ARE HERE!
COME ON! MOVE IT!
THE PEOPLE HAVE A *RIGHT* TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING! YOU CAN'T JUST CENSOR...
WAIT! WHAT'S THAT?
!
ZVNVNVNVN
!!

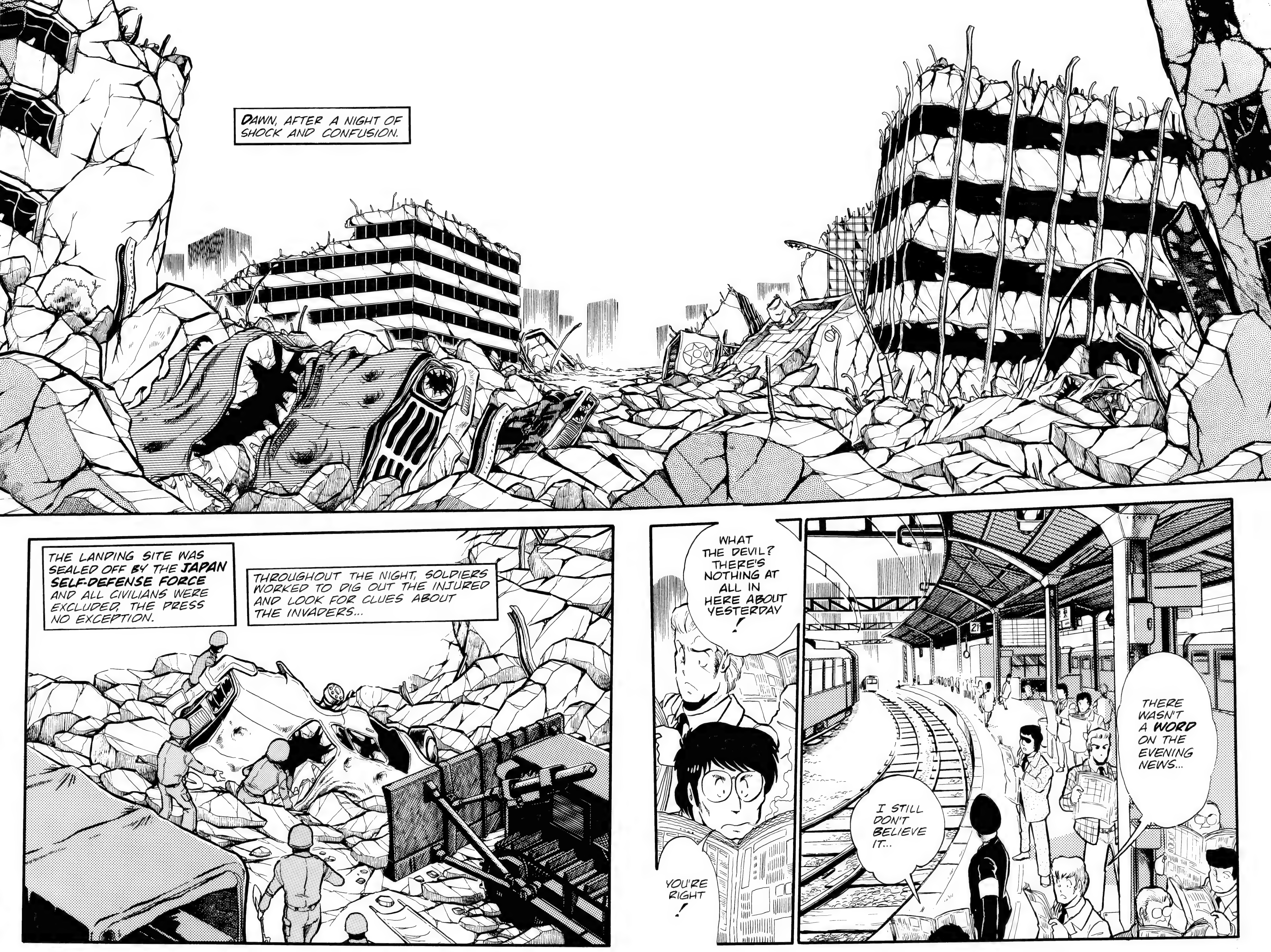

VNVNVNVN
HEY! THEY'RE TAKING OFF!
CAMERA! ROLL THE CAMERA!

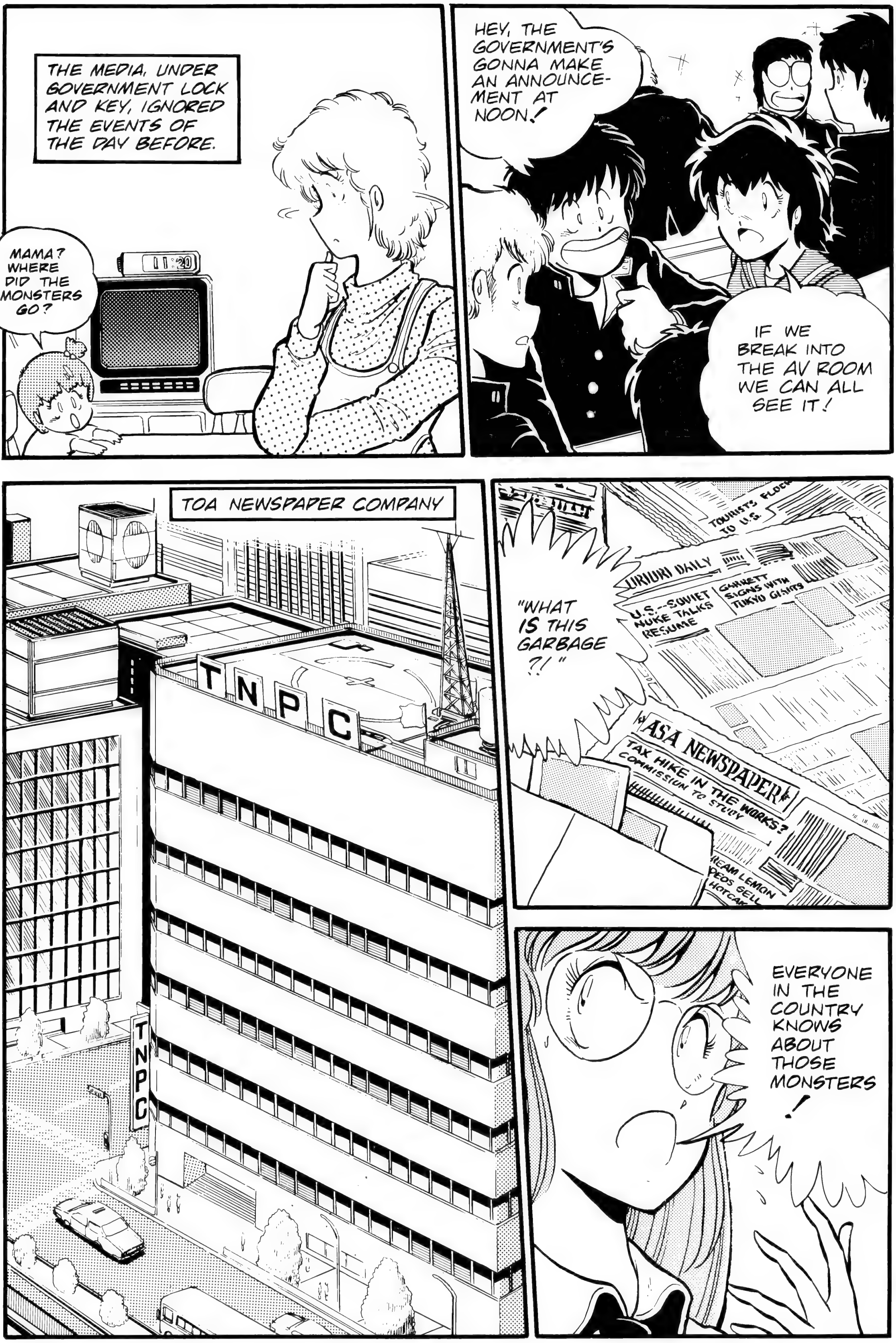

FIRE!
KHOOM
KRAM WRAM
SONY
!!!!
VN VN VN VN VN VN VN VN VN VN VN

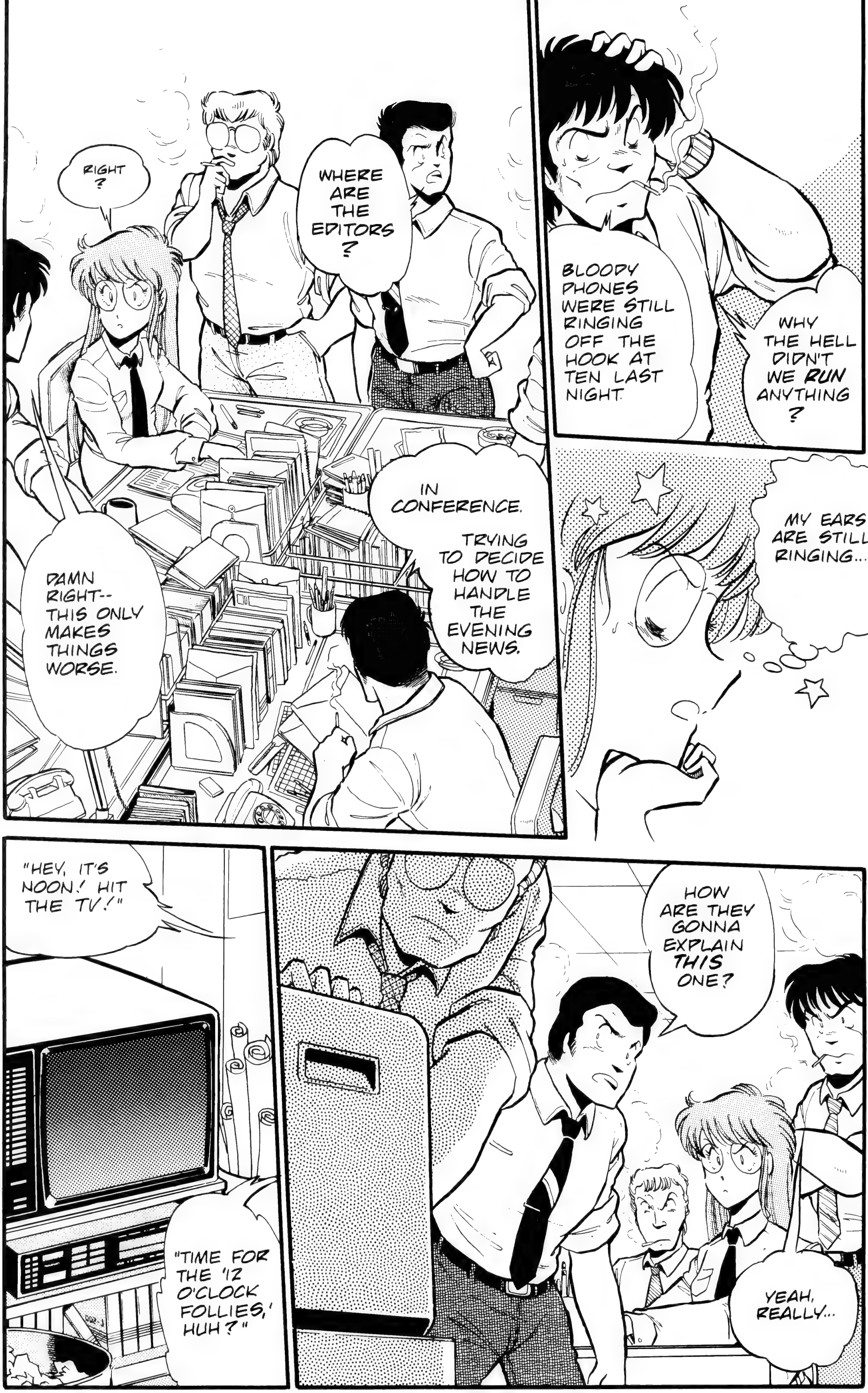

......
THEY'VE GONE...
NOW IT REALLY BEGINS..
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT...
NOBODY KNOWS...

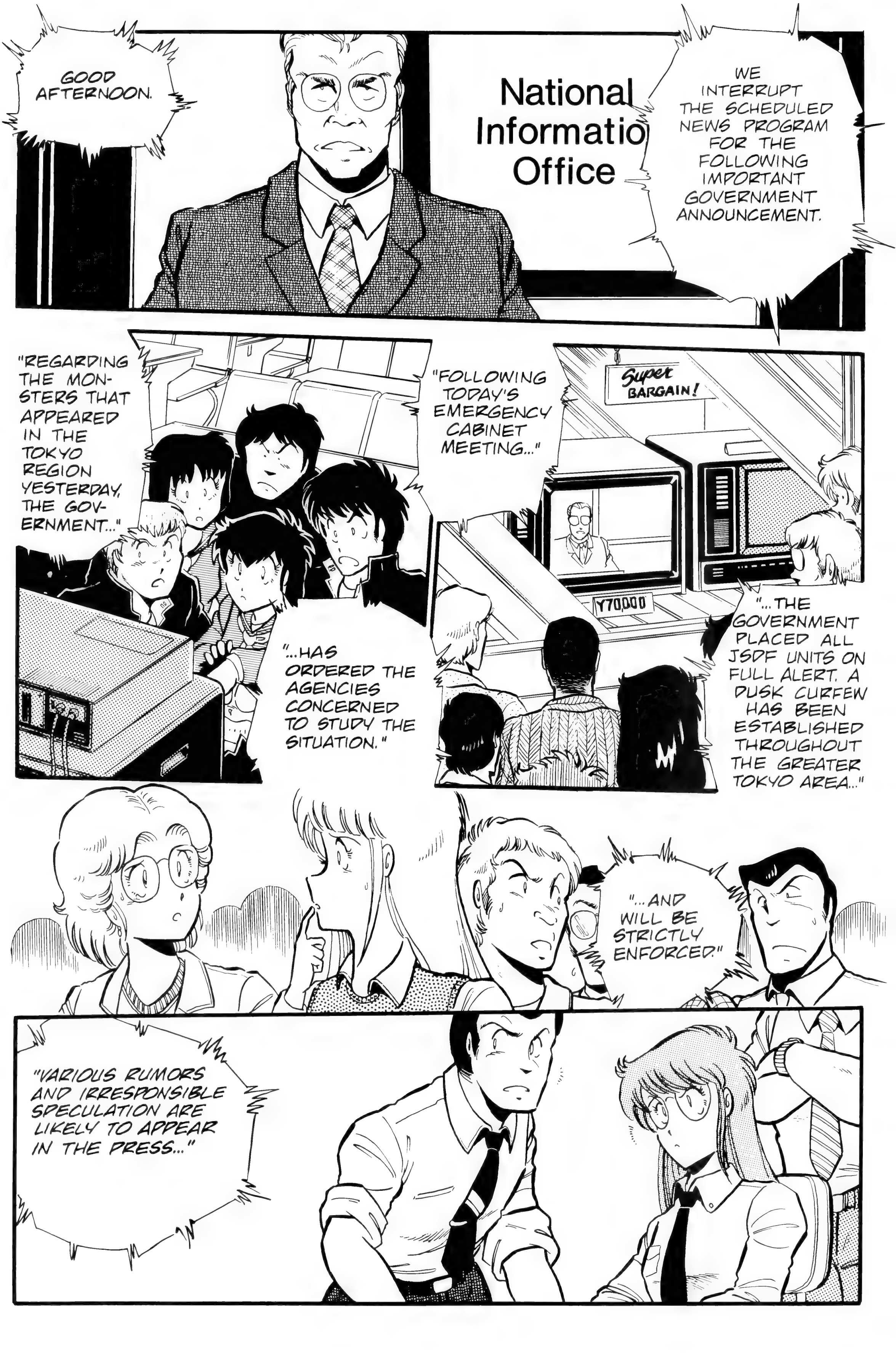

CONFIRM PRESENCE OF INTELLIGENT LIFEFORMS...
INFESTING OUR BEAUTIFUL MOTHER WORLD...
VNVNVNVNVN VN VN VN

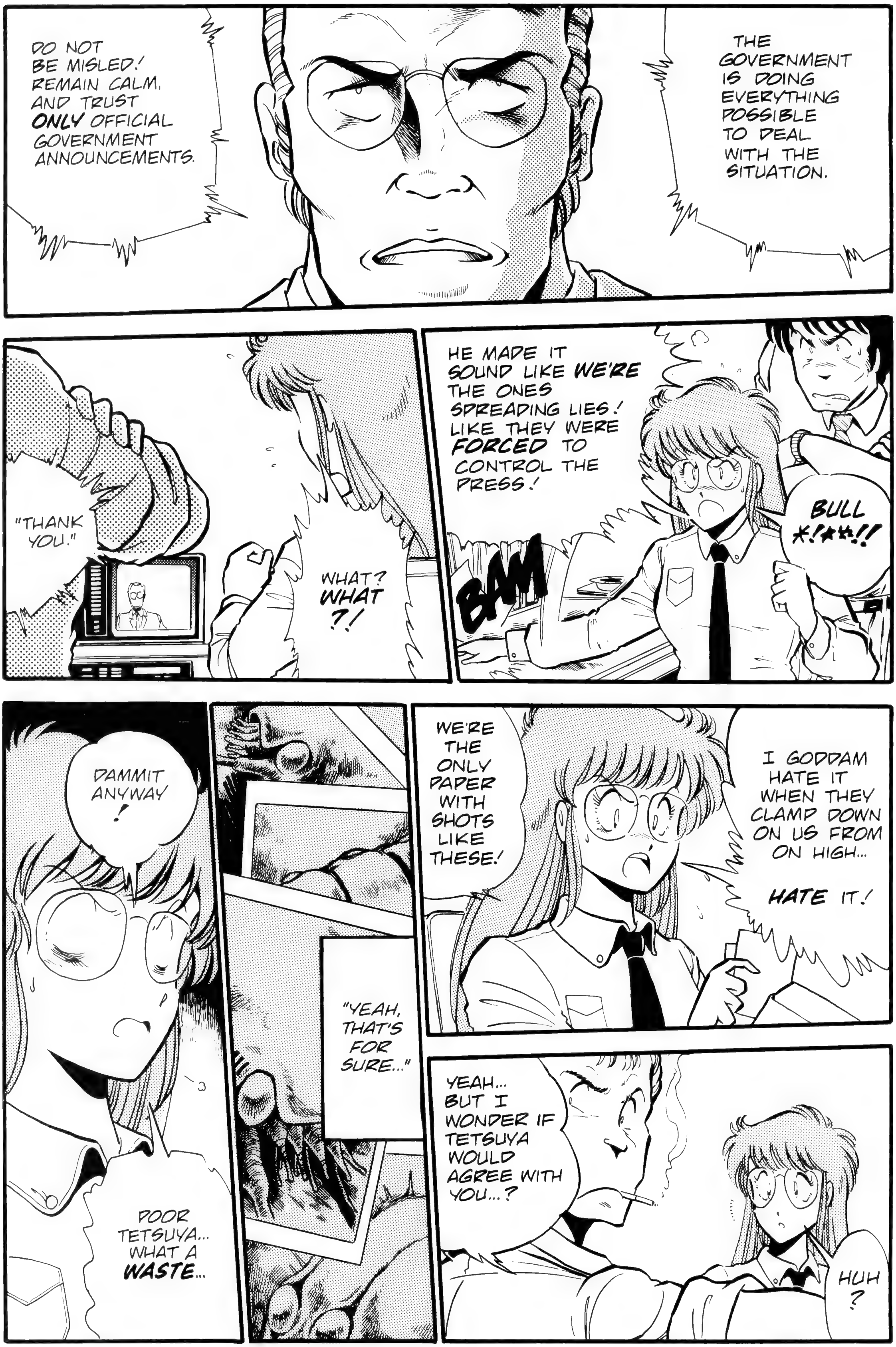
CHAPTER 2

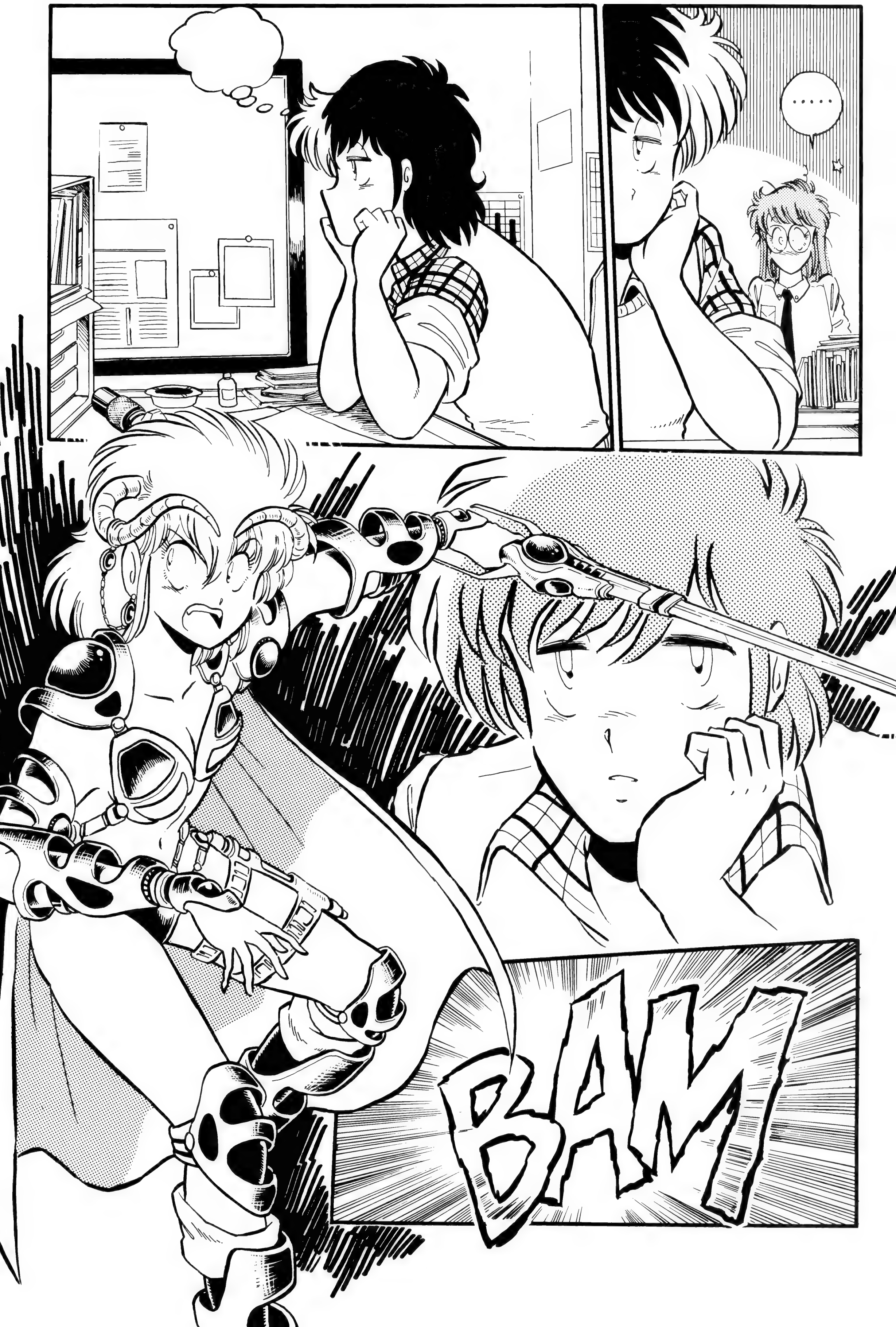

DAWN, AFTER A NIGHT OF SHOCK AND CONFUSION.
THE LANDING SITE WAS SEALED OFF BY THE JAPAN SELF-DEFENSE FORCE AND ALL CIVILIANS WERE EXCLUDED, THE PRESS NO EXCEPTION.
THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT, SOLDIERS WORKED TO DIG OUT THE INJURED AND LOOK FOR CLUES ABOUT THE INVADERS...
WHAT THE DEVIL? THERE'S NOTHING AT ALL IN HERE ABOUT YESTERDAY!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
THERE WASN'T A WORD ON THE EVENING NEWS...
I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT...
21

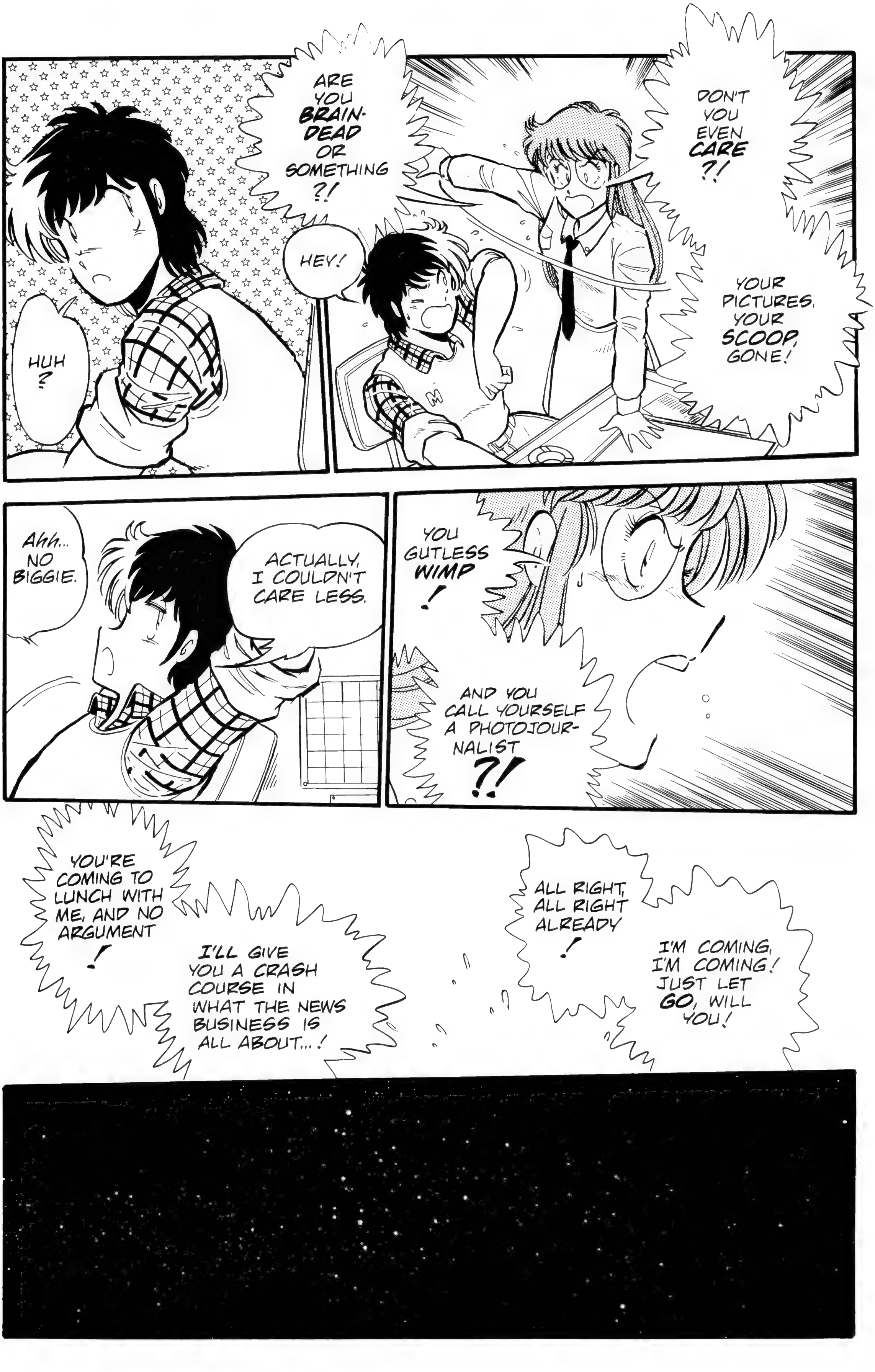

THE MEDIA, UNDER GOVERNMENT LOCK AND KEY, IGNORED THE EVENTS OF THE DAY BEFORE.
11:20
MAMA? WHERE DID THE MONSTERS GO?
HEY, THE GOVERNMENT'S GONNA MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT AT NOON!
IF WE BREAK INTO THE AV ROOM WE CAN ALL SEE IT!
TOA NEWSPAPER COMPANY
TNPC
TNPC
"WHAT IS THIS GARBAGE ?!"
TOURISTS FLOCK TO U.S.
URIURI DAILY
U.S.-SOVIET NUKE TALKS RESUME
GARRETT SIGNS WITH TOKYO GIANTS
ASA NEWSPAPER
TAX HIKE IN THE WORKS?
COMMISSION TO STUDY
REAM LEMON
DEOS SELL
HOTCAK
EVERYONE IN THE COUNTRY KNOWS ABOUT THOSE MONSTERS!

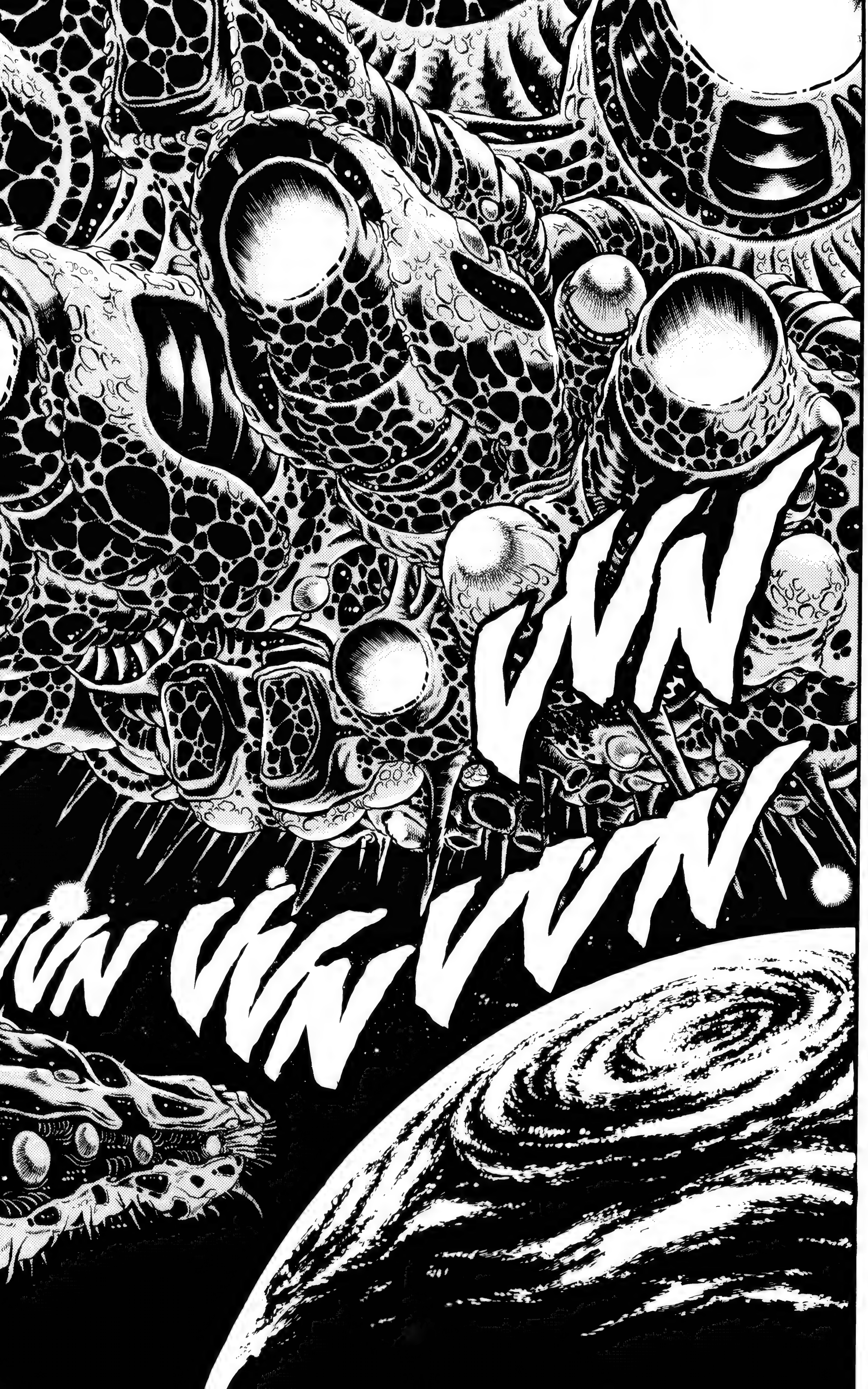

WHERE ARE THE EDITORS?
IN CONFERENCE. TRYING TO DECIDE HOW TO HANDLE THE EVENING NEWS.
RIGHT?
DAMN RIGHT-- THIS ONLY MAKES THINGS WORSE.
BLOODY PHONES WERE STILL RINGING OFF THE HOOK AT TEN LAST NIGHT.
WHY THE HELL DIDN'T WE RUN ANYTHING?
MY EARS ARE STILL RINGING...
"HEY, IT'S NOON! HIT THE TV!"
"TIME FOR THE '12 O'CLOCK FOLLIES,' HUH?"
HOW ARE THEY GONNA EXPLAIN THIS ONE?
YEAH, REALLY...

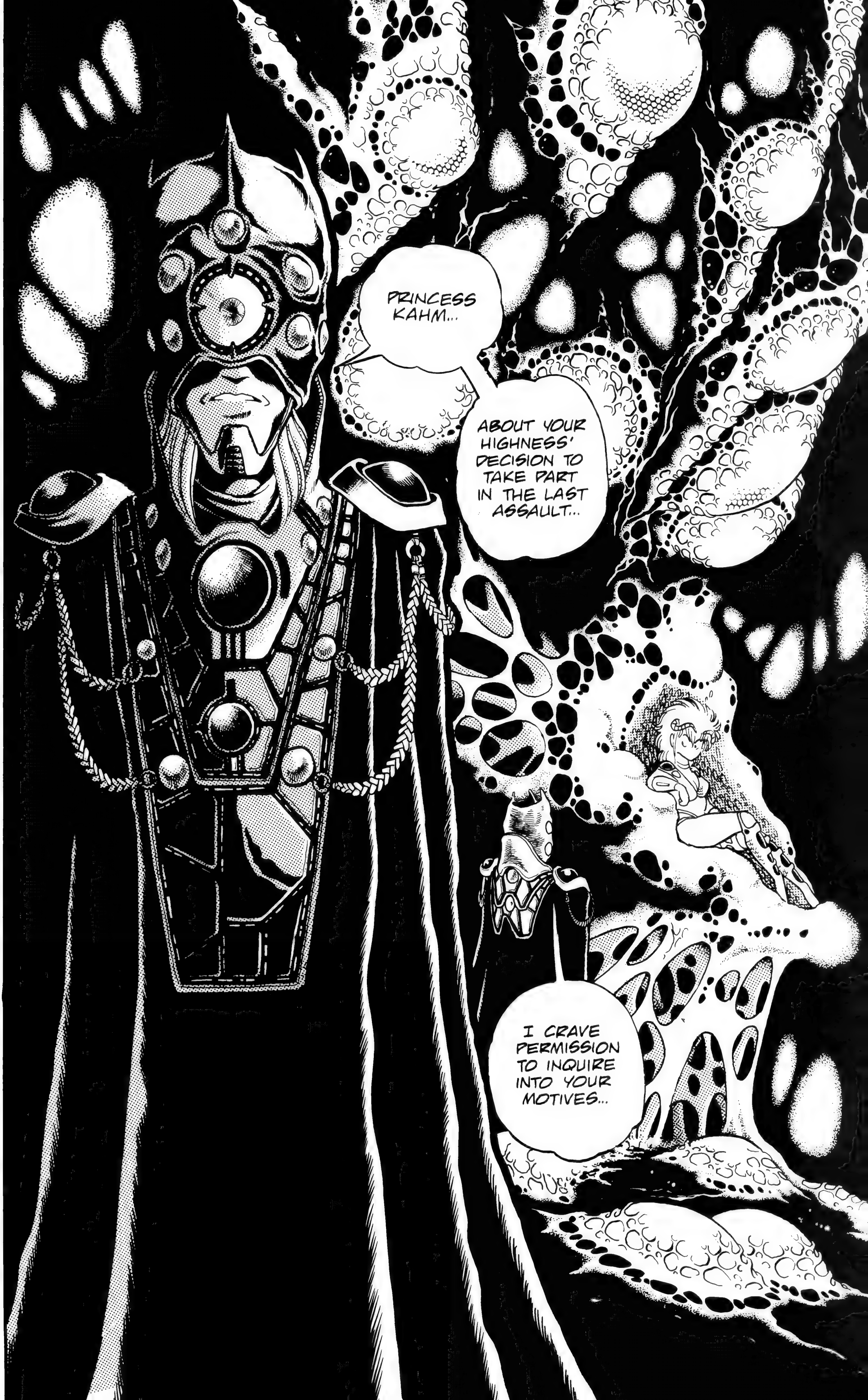

GOOD AFTERNOON.
National Informatio Office
WE INTERRUPT THE SCHEDULED NEWS PROGRAM FOR THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT.
"REGARDING THE MONSTERS THAT APPEARED IN THE TOKYO REGION YESTERDAY, THE GOVERNMENT..."
"...HAS ORDERED THE AGENCIES CONCERNED TO STUDY THE SITUATION."
"FOLLOWING TODAY'S EMERGENCY CABINET MEETING..."
Super BARGAIN!
Y70,000
"...THE GOVERNMENT PLACED ALL JSDF UNITS ON FULL ALERT. A DUSK CURFEW HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED THROUGHOUT THE GREATER TOKYO AREA..."
"...AND WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED."
"VARIOUS RUMORS AND IRRESPONSIBLE SPECULATION ARE LIKELY TO APPEAR IN THE PRESS..."

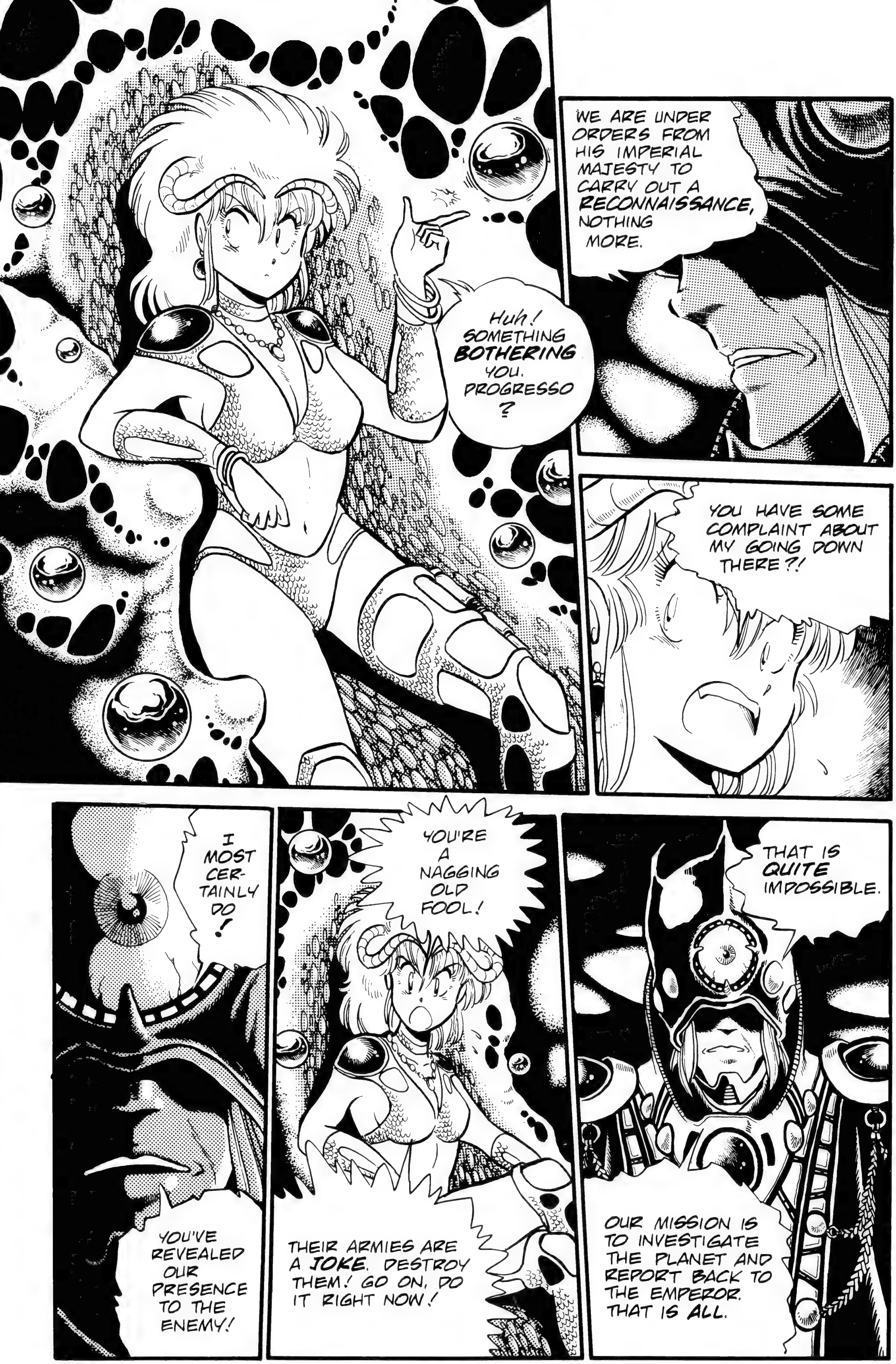

DO NOT BE MISLED! REMAIN CALM. AND TRUST ONLY OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS.
THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION.
"THANK YOU."
WHAT? WHAT?!
HE MADE IT SOUND LIKE WE'RE THE ONES SPREADING LIES! LIKE THEY WERE FORCED TO CONTROL THE PRESS!
BAM
BULL *!★☆!!
DAMMIT ANYWAY!
POOR TETSUYA... WHAT A WASTE...
"YEAH, THAT'S FOR SURE..."
WE'RE THE ONLY PAPER WITH SHOTS LIKE THESE!
I GODDAM HATE IT WHEN THEY CLAMP DOWN ON US FROM ON HIGH... HATE IT!
YEAH... BUT I WONDER IF TETSUYA WOULD AGREE WITH YOU...?
HUH?

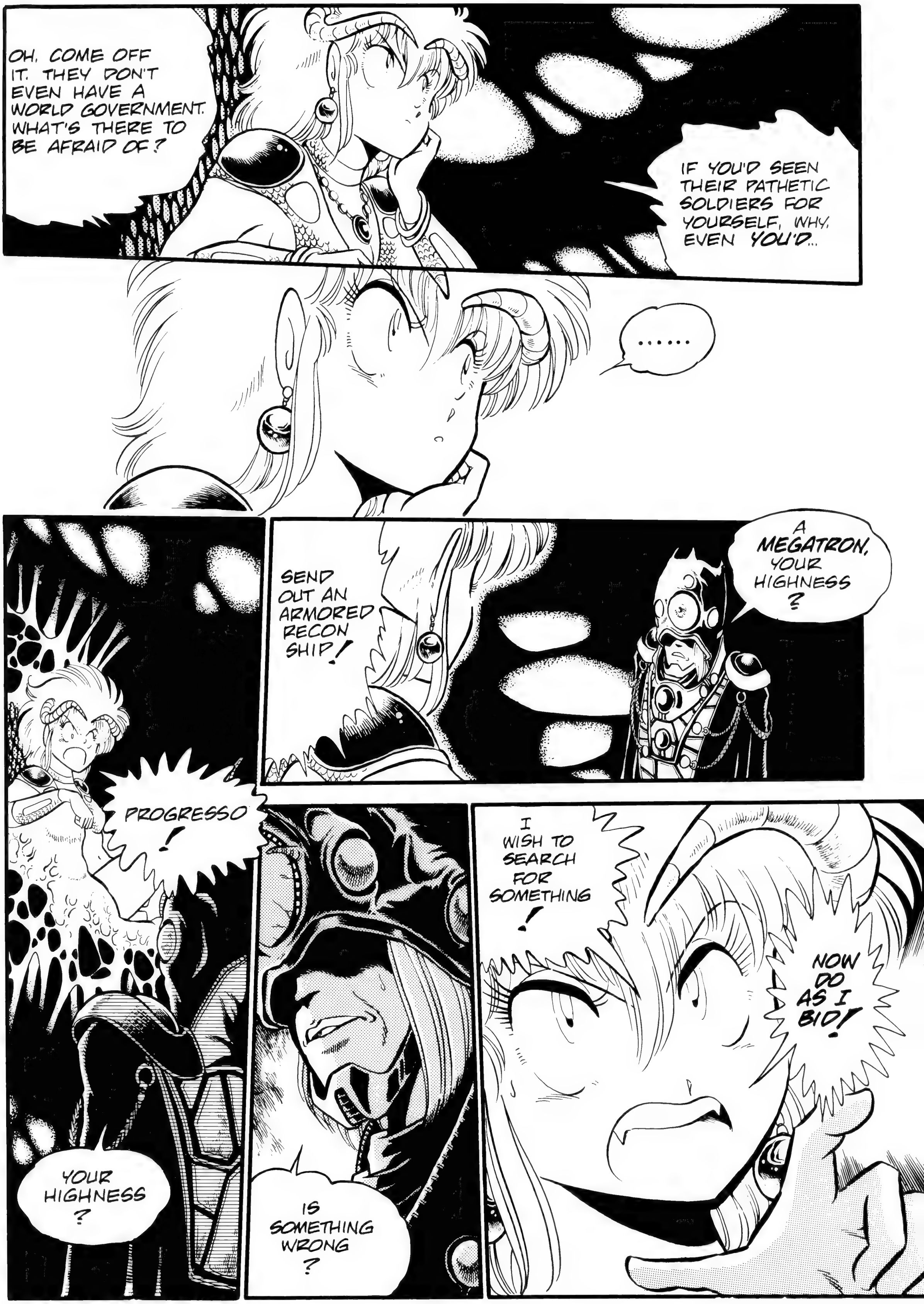

......
BAM

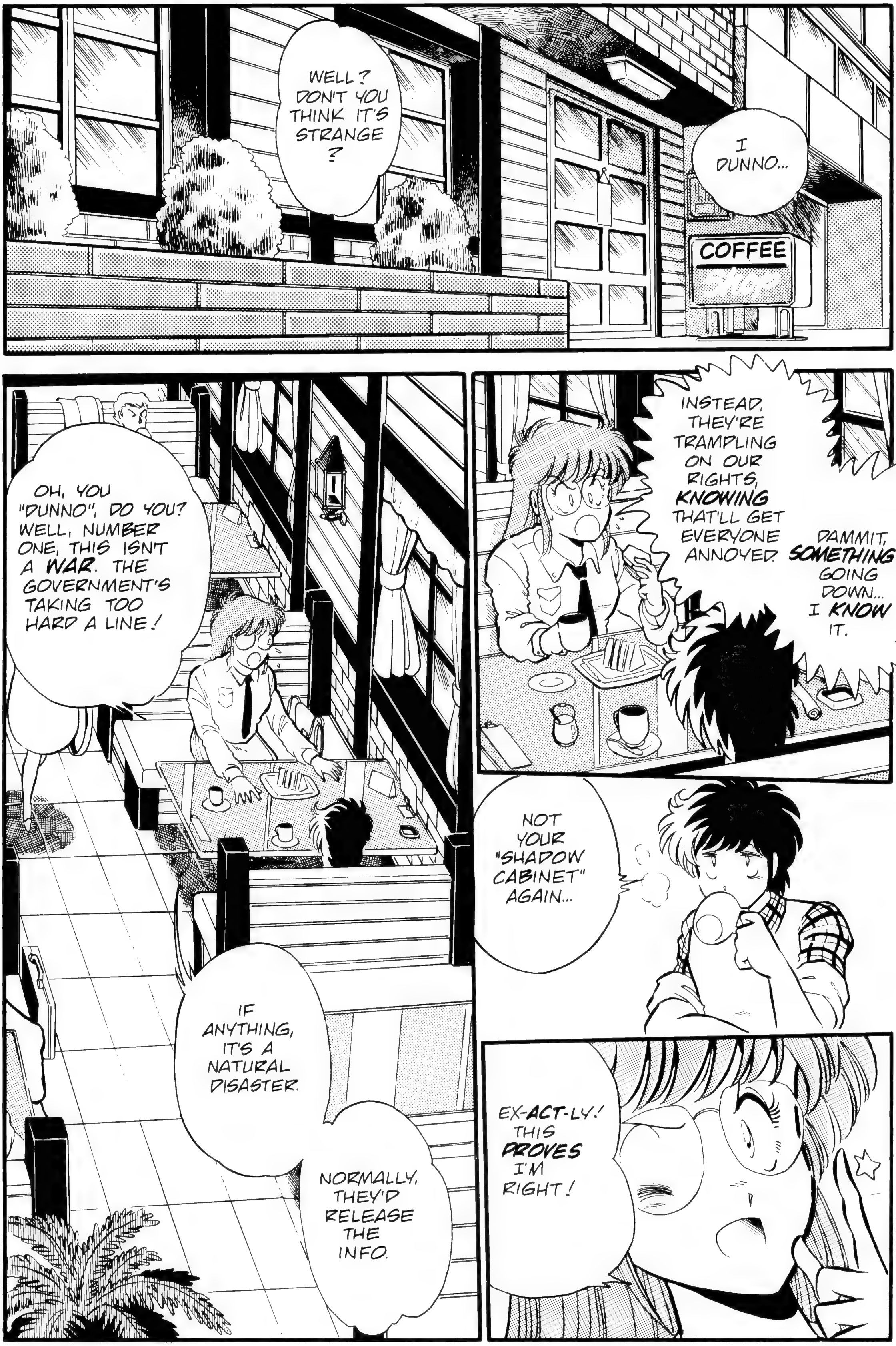

HUH?
ARE YOU BRAIN-DEAD OR SOMETHING?!
HEY!
DON'T YOU EVEN CARE?!
YOUR PICTURES, YOUR SCOOP, GONE!
Ahh... NO BIGGIE.
ACTUALLY, I COULDN'T CARE LESS.
YOU GUTLESS WIMP!
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A PHOTOJOURNALIST?!
YOU'RE COMING TO LUNCH WITH ME, AND NO ARGUMENT!
I'LL GIVE YOU A CRASH COURSE IN WHAT THE NEWS BUSINESS IS ALL ABOUT...!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT ALREADY!
I'M COMING, I'M COMING! JUST LET GO, WILL YOU!

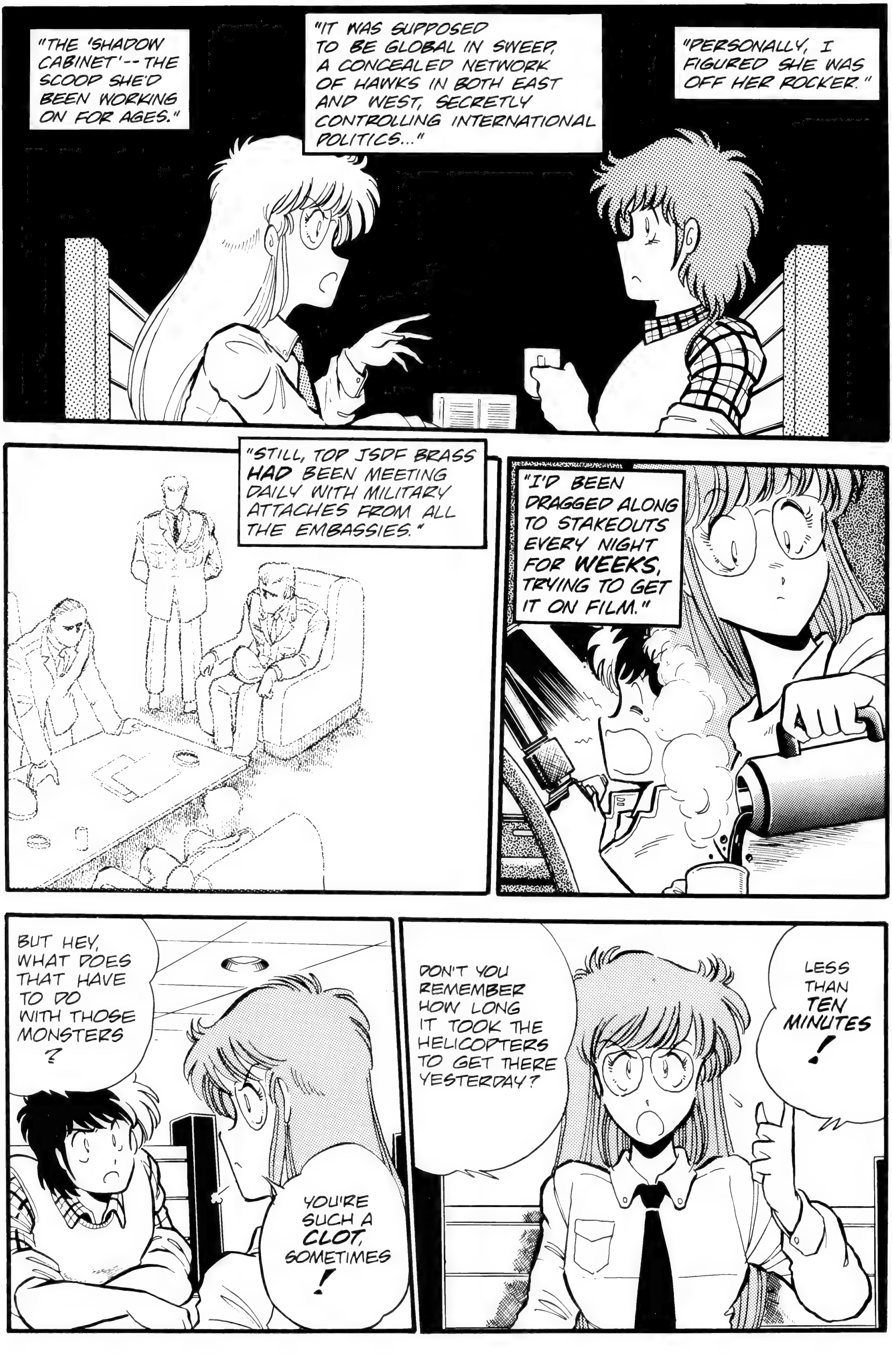

VVN
VVN VVVN

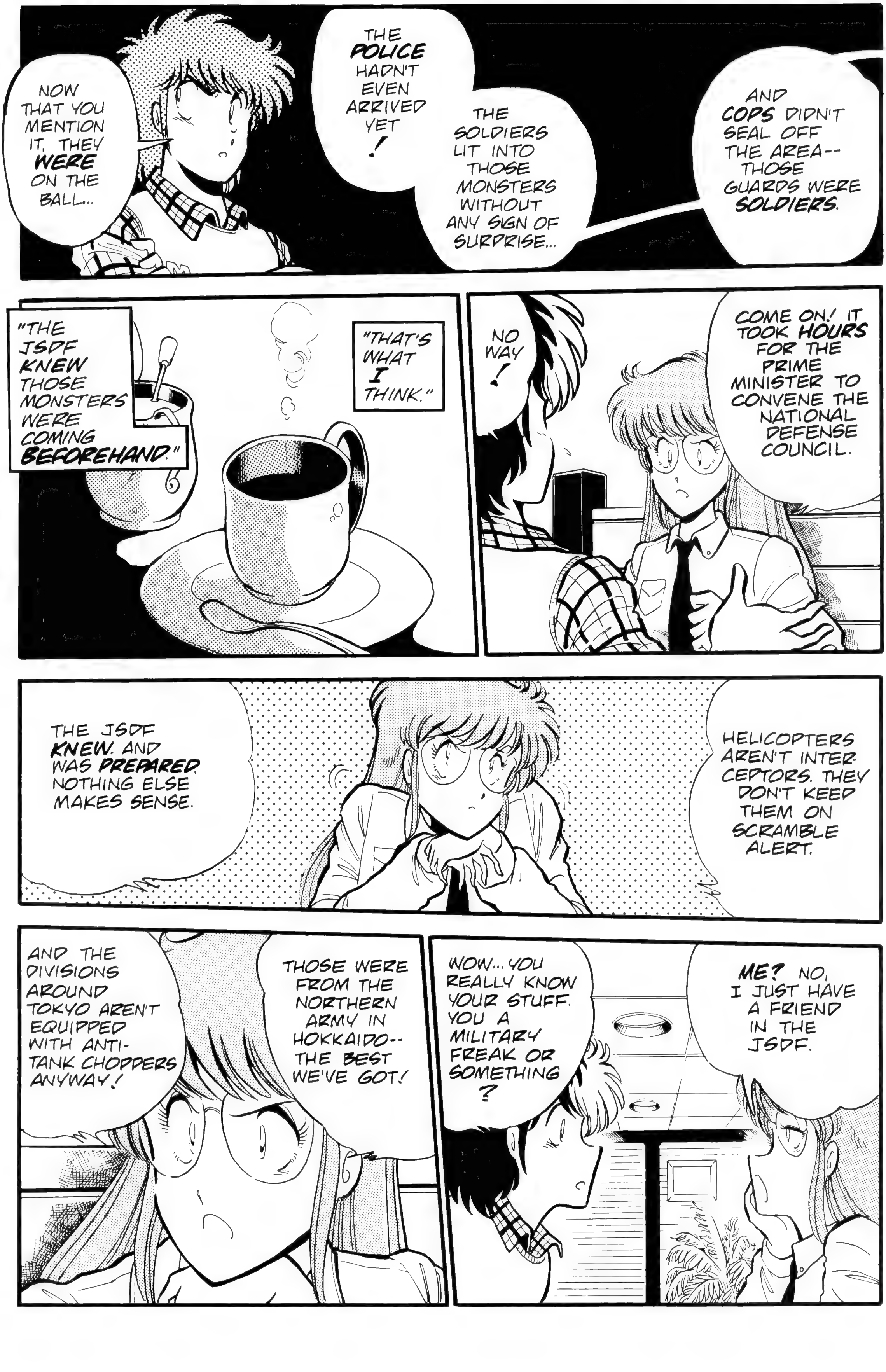

PRINCESS KAHM...
ABOUT YOUR HIGHNESS' DECISION TO TAKE PART IN THE LAST ASSAULT...
I CRAVE PERMISSION TO INQUIRE INTO YOUR MOTIVES...

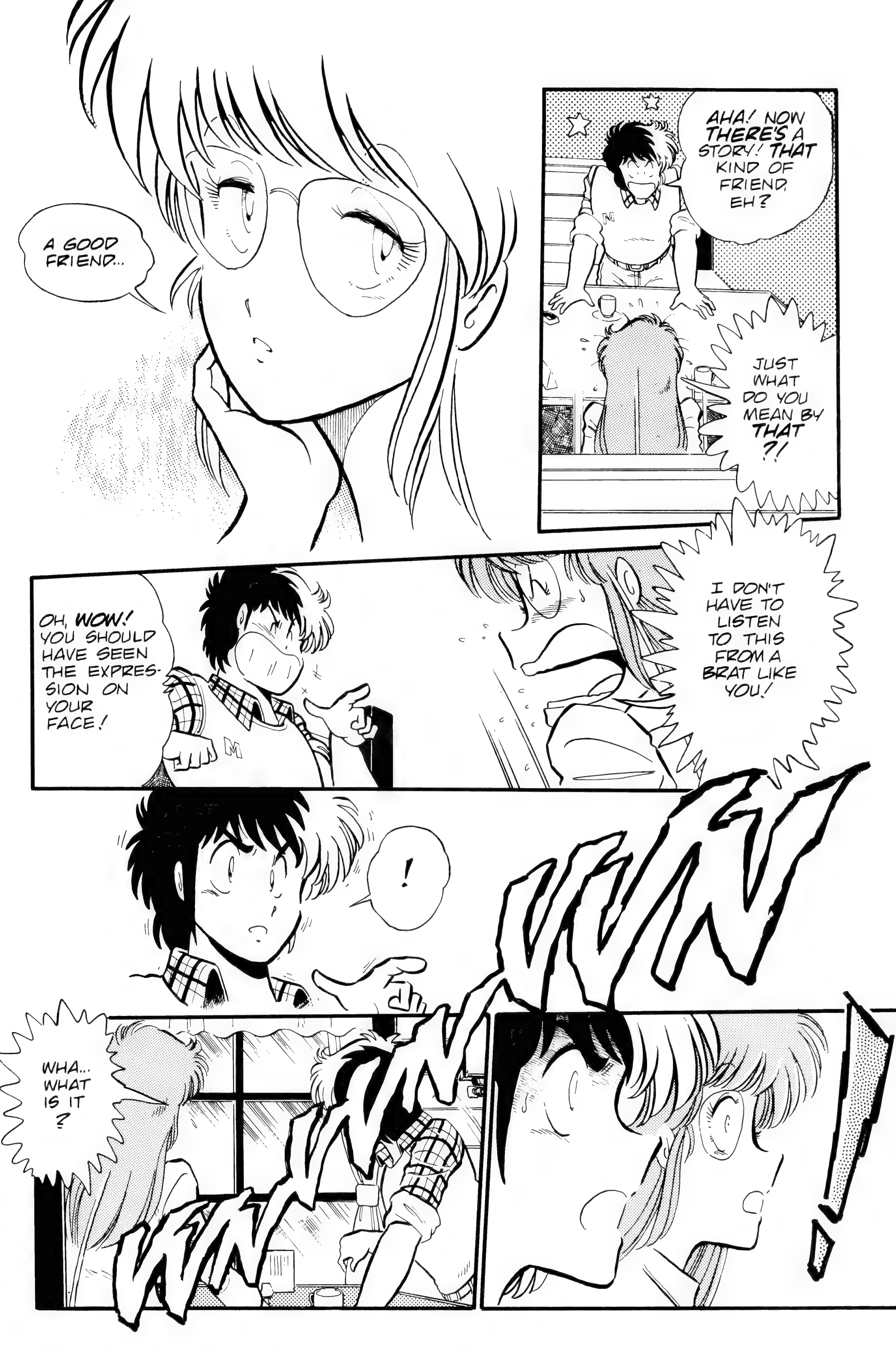

Huh! SOMETHING **BOTHERING** YOU. PROGRESSO ?
WE ARE UNDER ORDERS FROM HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY TO CARRY OUT A **RECONNAISSANCE,** NOTHING MORE.
YOU HAVE SOME COMPLAINT ABOUT MY GOING DOWN THERE?!
I MOST CERTAINLY DO!
YOU'VE REVEALED OUR PRESENCE TO THE ENEMY!
YOU'RE A NAGGING OLD FOOL!
THEIR ARMIES ARE A **JOKE**. DESTROY THEM! GO ON, DO IT RIGHT NOW!
THAT IS **QUITE** IMPOSSIBLE.
OUR MISSION IS TO INVESTIGATE THE PLANET AND REPORT BACK TO THE EMPEROR. THAT IS **ALL**.

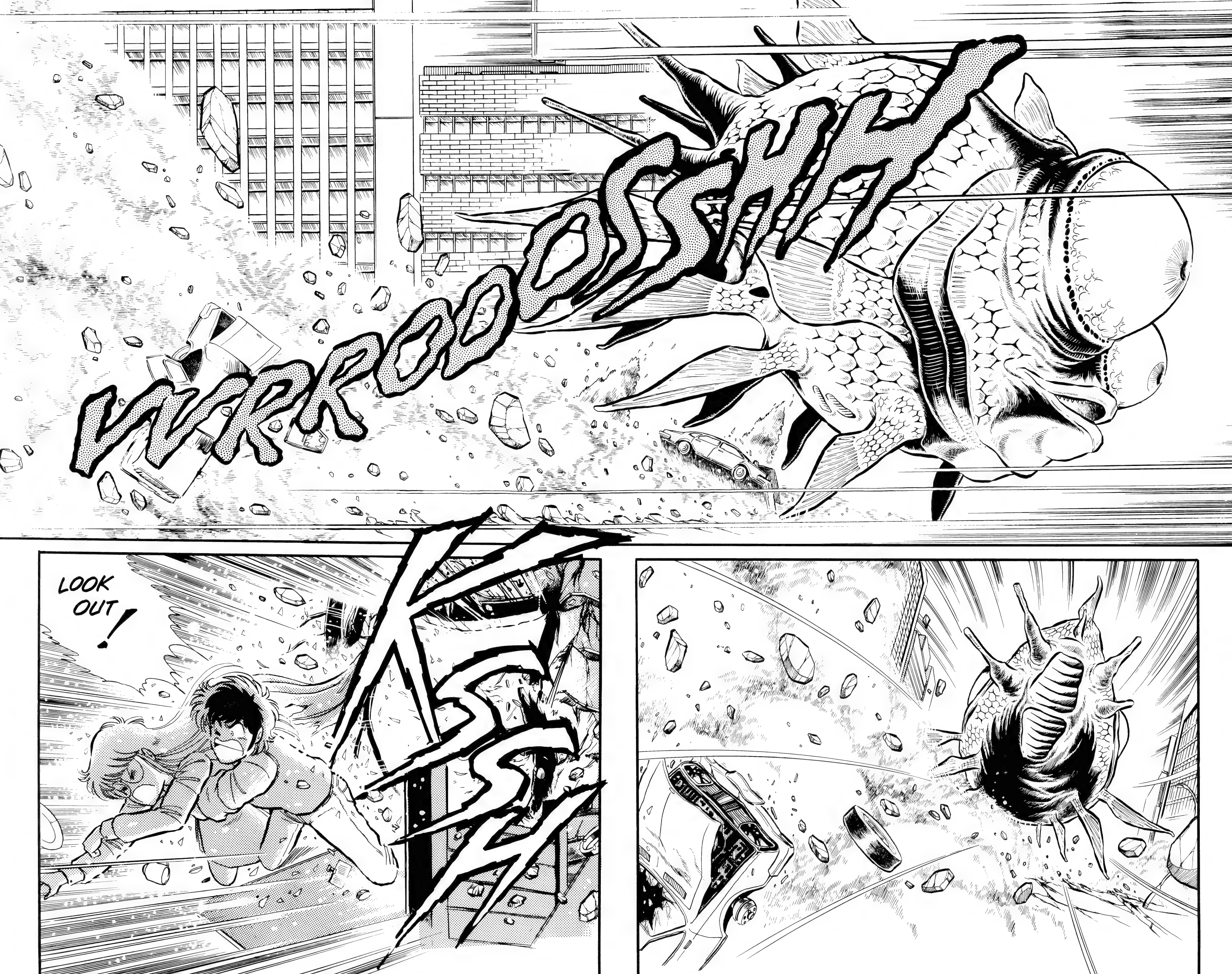

OH, COME OFF IT. THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE A WORLD GOVERNMENT. WHAT'S THERE TO BE AFRAID OF?
IF YOU'D SEEN THEIR PATHETIC SOLDIERS FOR YOURSELF, WHY, EVEN *YOU'D*...
......
PROGRESSO!
YOUR HIGHNESS?
SEND OUT AN ARMORED RECON SHIP!
A *MEGATRON*, YOUR HIGHNESS?
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
I WISH TO SEARCH FOR SOMETHING!
NOW DO AS I BID!

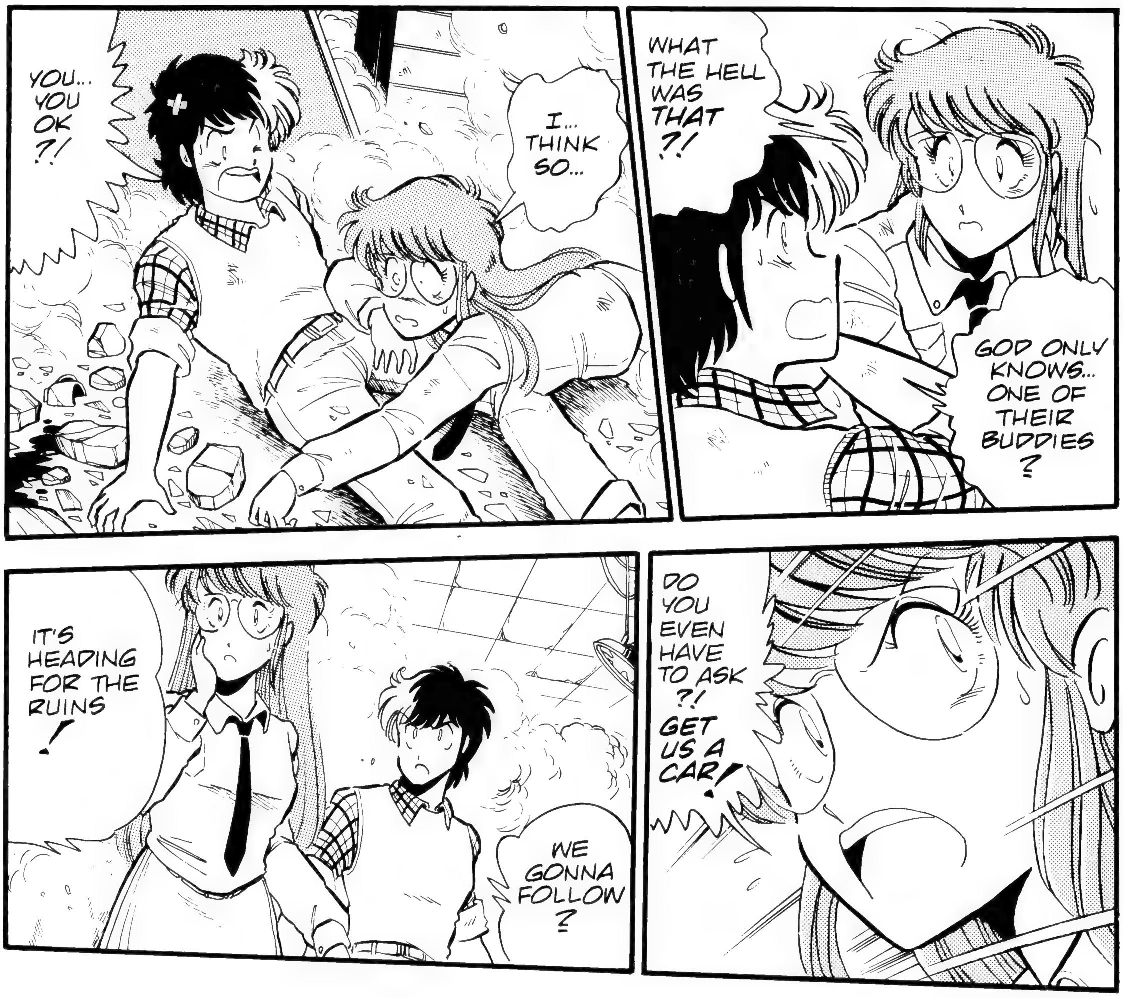

WELL? DON'T YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE?
COFFEE
I DUNNO...
OH, YOU "DUNNO", DO YOU? WELL, NUMBER ONE, THIS ISN'T A **WAR**. THE GOVERNMENT'S TAKING TOO HARD A LINE!
INSTEAD, THEY'RE TRAMPLING ON OUR RIGHTS, **KNOWING** THAT'LL GET EVERYONE ANNOYED.
DAMMIT, **SOMETHING'S** GOING DOWN... I **KNOW** IT.
NOT YOUR "SHADOW CABINET" AGAIN...
IF ANYTHING, IT'S A NATURAL DISASTER.
NORMALLY, THEY'D RELEASE THE INFO.
EX-**ACT**-LY! THIS **PROVES** I'M RIGHT!

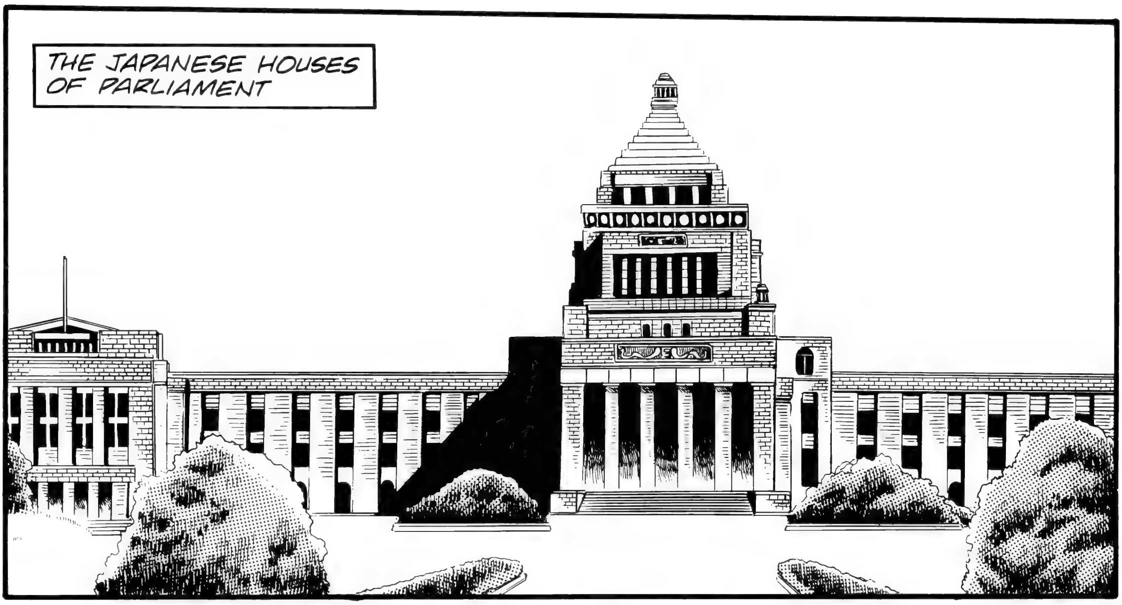

"THE 'SHADOW CABINET'--THE SCOOP SHE'D BEEN WORKING ON FOR AGES."
"IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE GLOBAL IN SWEEP, A CONCEALED NETWORK OF HAWKS IN BOTH EAST AND WEST, SECRETLY CONTROLLING INTERNATIONAL POLITICS..."
"PERSONALLY, I FIGURED SHE WAS OFF HER ROCKER."
"STILL, TOP JSDF BRASS **HAD** BEEN MEETING DAILY WITH MILITARY ATTACHES FROM ALL THE EMBASSIES."
"I'D BEEN DRAGGED ALONG TO STAKEOUTS EVERY NIGHT FOR **WEEKS**, TRYING TO GET IT ON FILM."
BUT HEY, WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH THOSE MONSTERS?
YOU'RE SUCH A **CLOT**, SOMETIMES!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER HOW LONG IT TOOK THE HELICOPTERS TO GET THERE YESTERDAY?
LESS THAN **TEN MINUTES**!

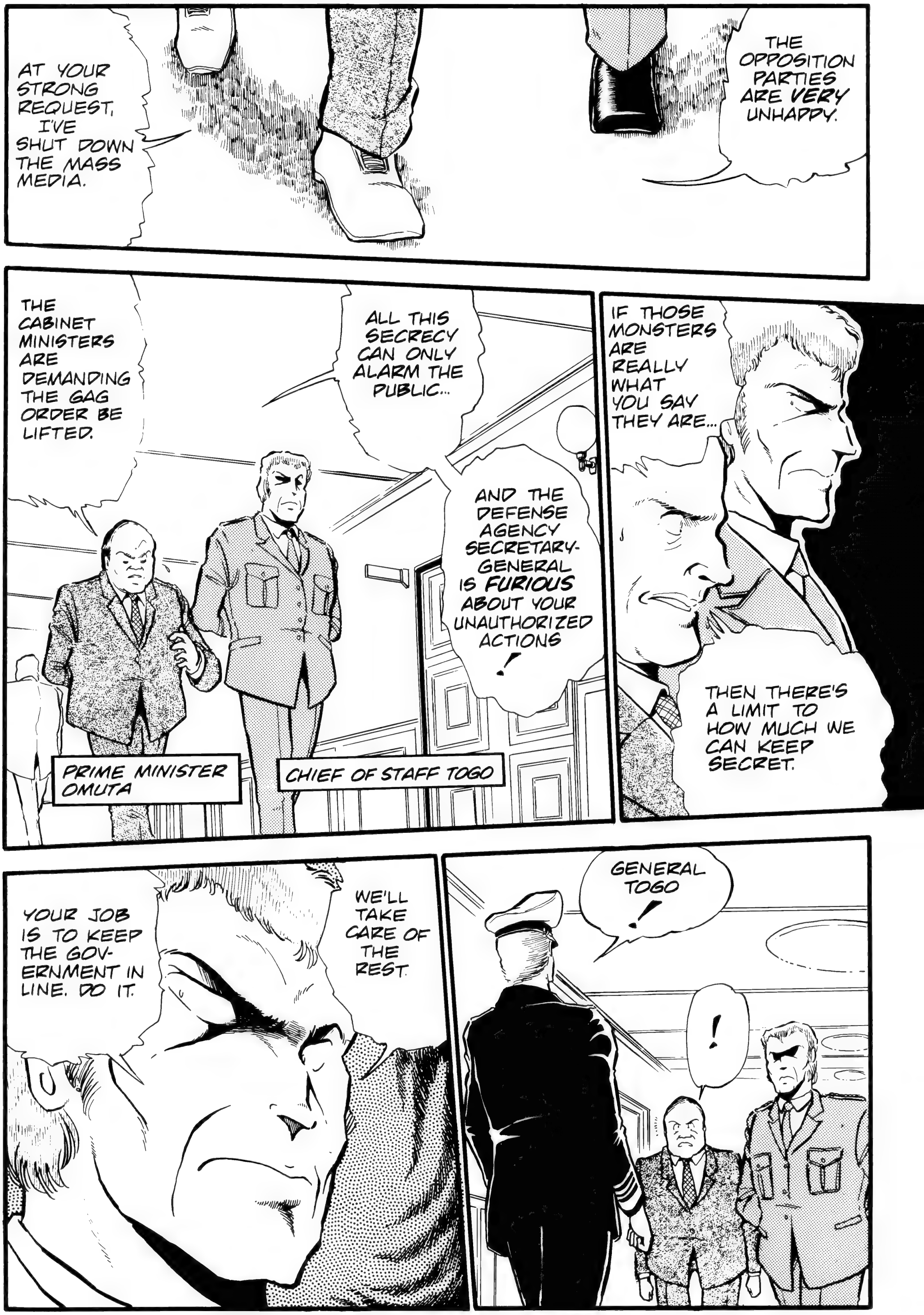

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THEY **WERE** ON THE BALL...
THE **POLICE** HADN'T EVEN ARRIVED YET!
THE SOLDIERS LIT INTO THOSE MONSTERS WITHOUT ANY SIGN OF SURPRISE...
AND **COPS** DIDN'T SEAL OFF THE AREA-- THOSE GUARDS WERE **SOLDIERS**.
"THE JSDF **KNEW** THOSE MONSTERS WERE COMING **BEFOREHAND**."
"THAT'S WHAT **I** THINK."
NO WAY!
COME ON! IT TOOK **HOURS** FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO CONVENE THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL.
THE JSDF **KNEW**. AND WAS **PREPARED**. NOTHING ELSE MAKES SENSE.
HELICOPTERS AREN'T INTERCEPTORS. THEY DON'T KEEP THEM ON SCRAMBLE ALERT.
AND THE DIVISIONS AROUND TOKYO AREN'T EQUIPPED WITH ANTI-TANK CHOPPERS ANYWAY!
THOSE WERE FROM THE NORTHERN ARMY IN HOKKAIDO-- THE **BEST** WE'VE GOT!
WOW... YOU REALLY KNOW YOUR STUFF. YOU A MILITARY FREAK OR SOMETHING?
ME? NO, I JUST HAVE A FRIEND IN THE JSDF.

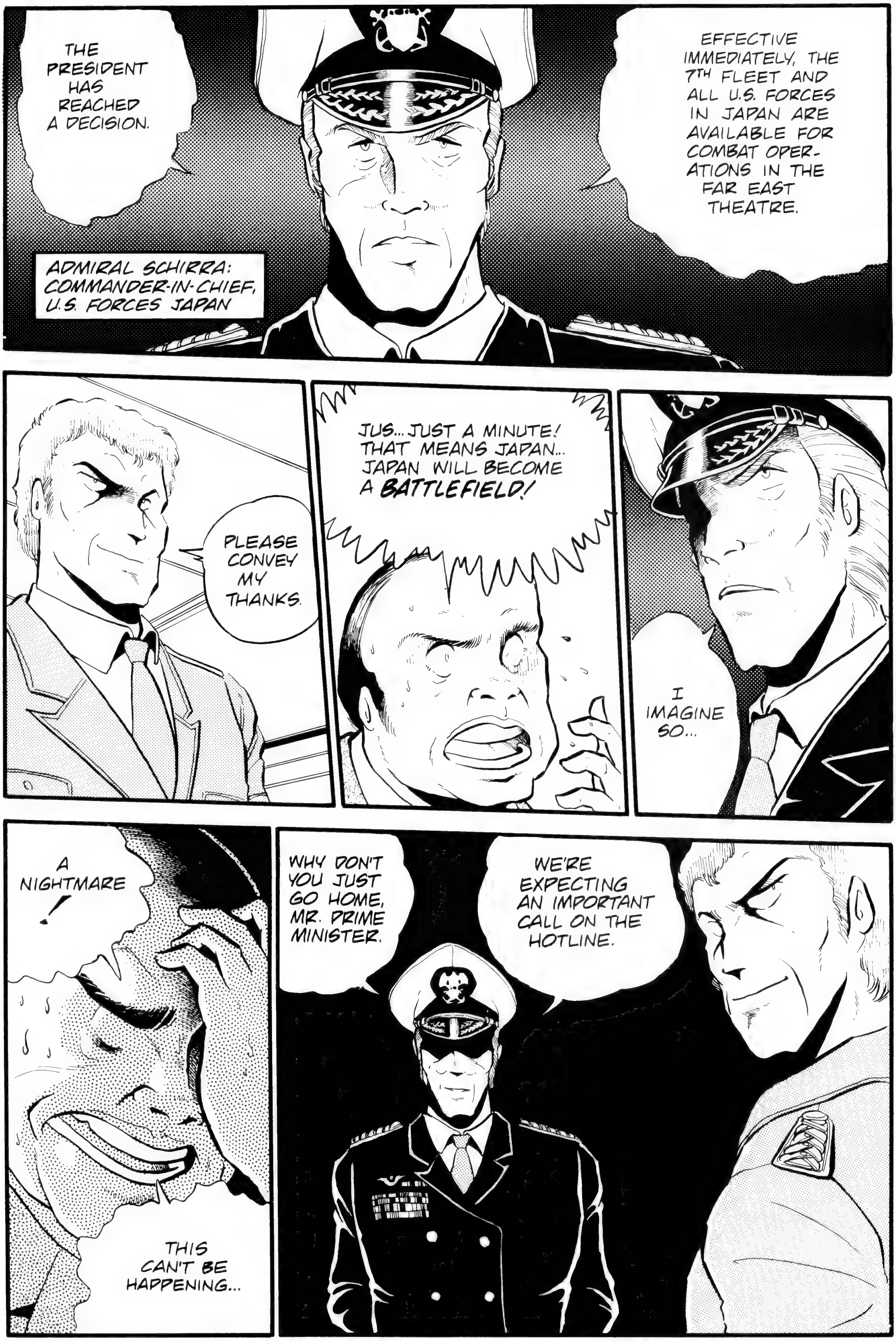

A GOOD FRIEND...
AHA! NOW THERE'S A STORY! THAT KIND OF FRIEND, EH?
JUST WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?!
OH, WOW! YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE EXPRESSION ON YOUR FACE!
I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO THIS FROM A BRAT LIKE YOU!
!
VUN
WHA... WHAT IS IT?
VUN
!

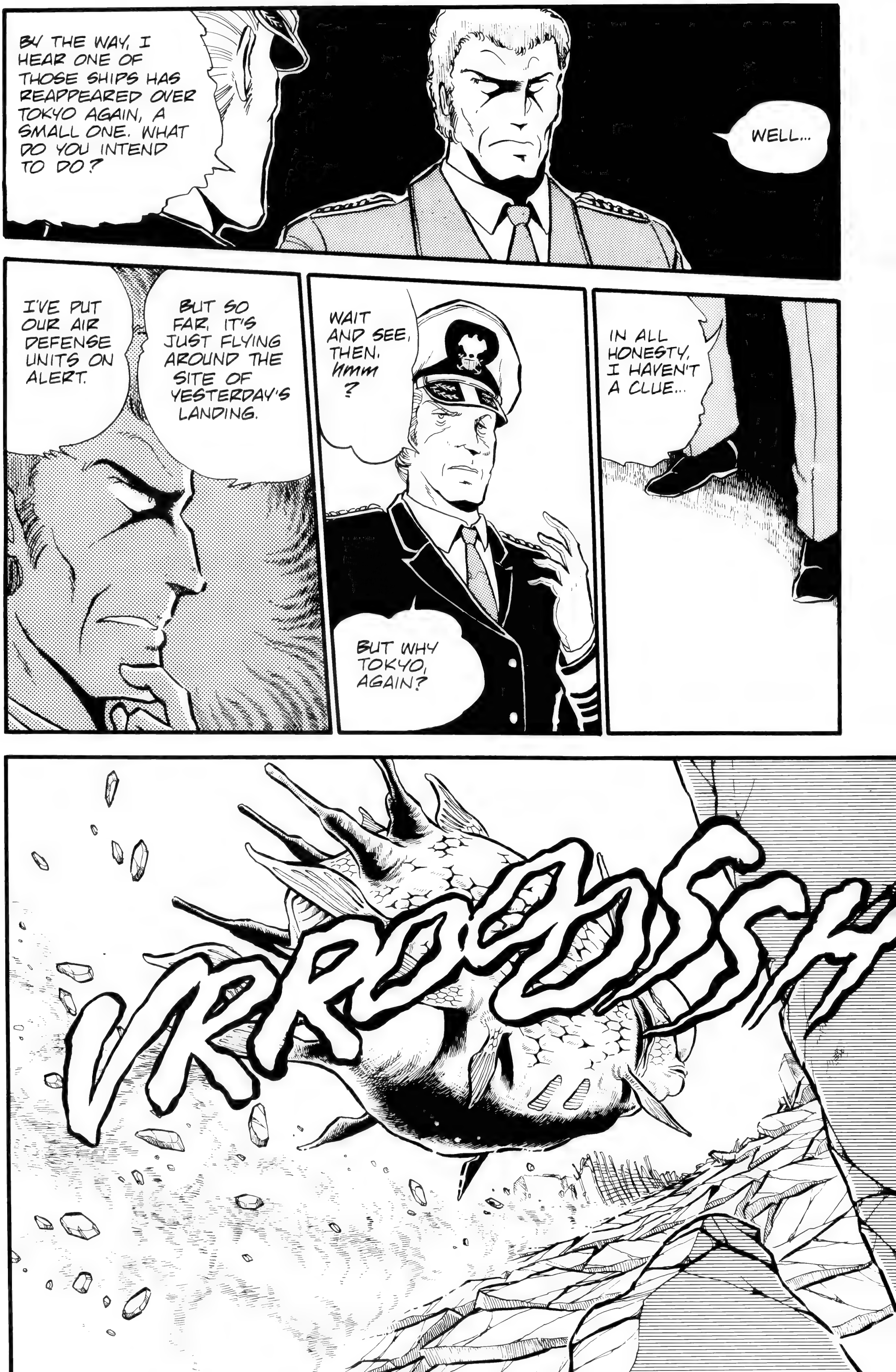

VWRROOOSSHH
LOOK OUT!
KSSSH

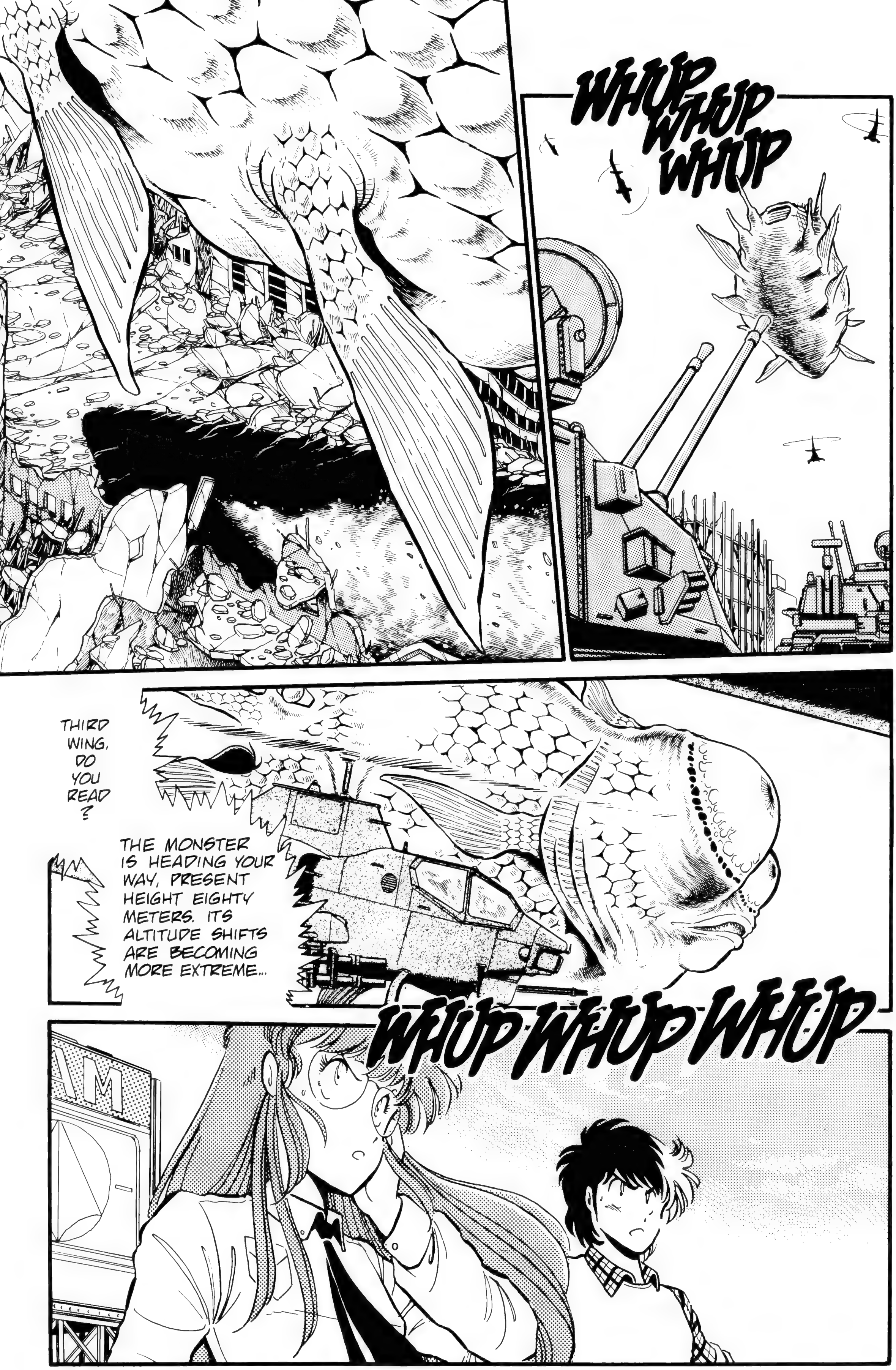

YOU... YOU OK ?!
I... THINK SO...
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT ?!
GOD ONLY KNOWS... ONE OF THEIR BUDDIES ?
IT'S HEADING FOR THE RUINS !
WE GONNA FOLLOW ?
DO YOU EVEN HAVE TO ASK ?! GET US A CAR!

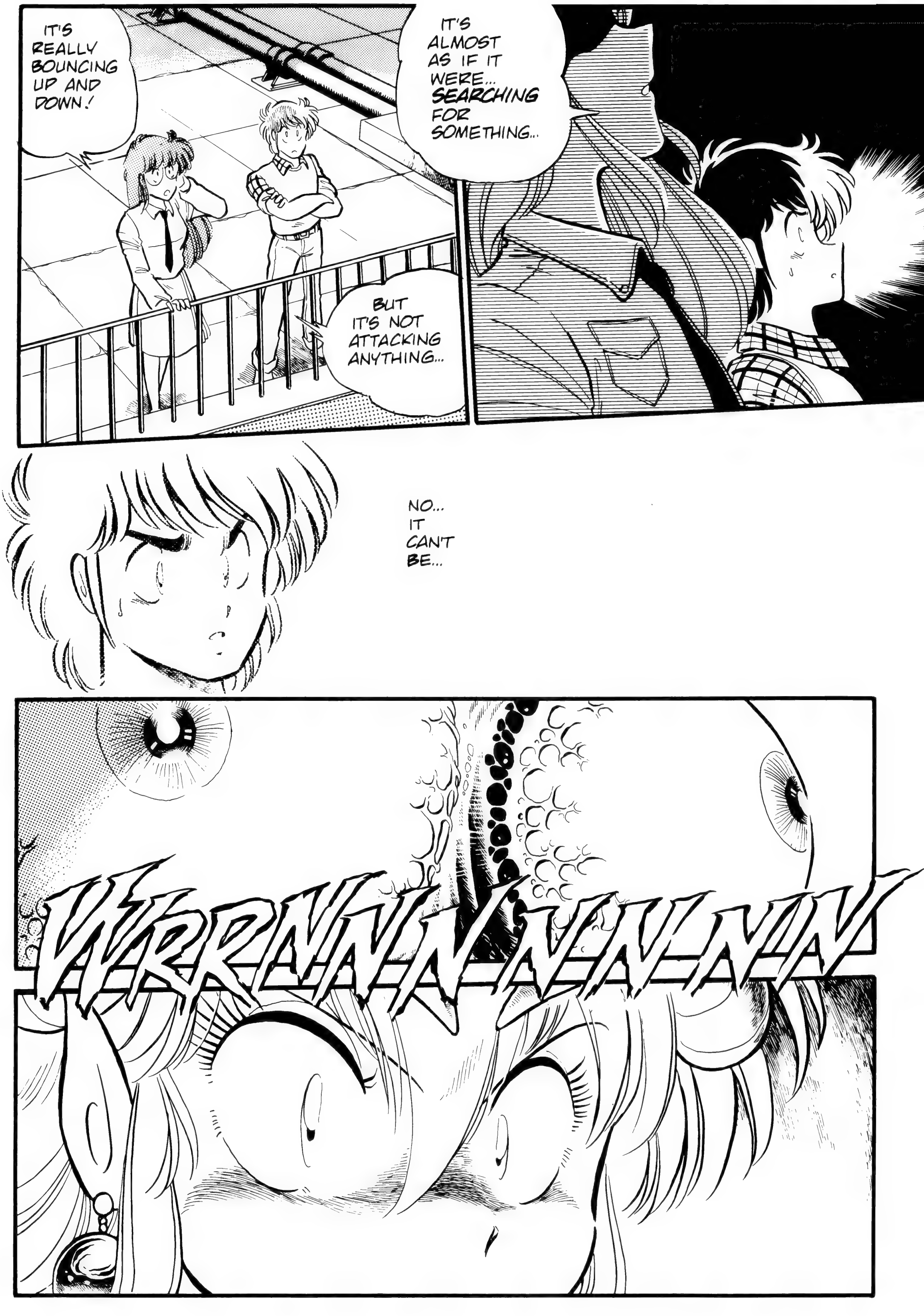

THE JAPANESE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

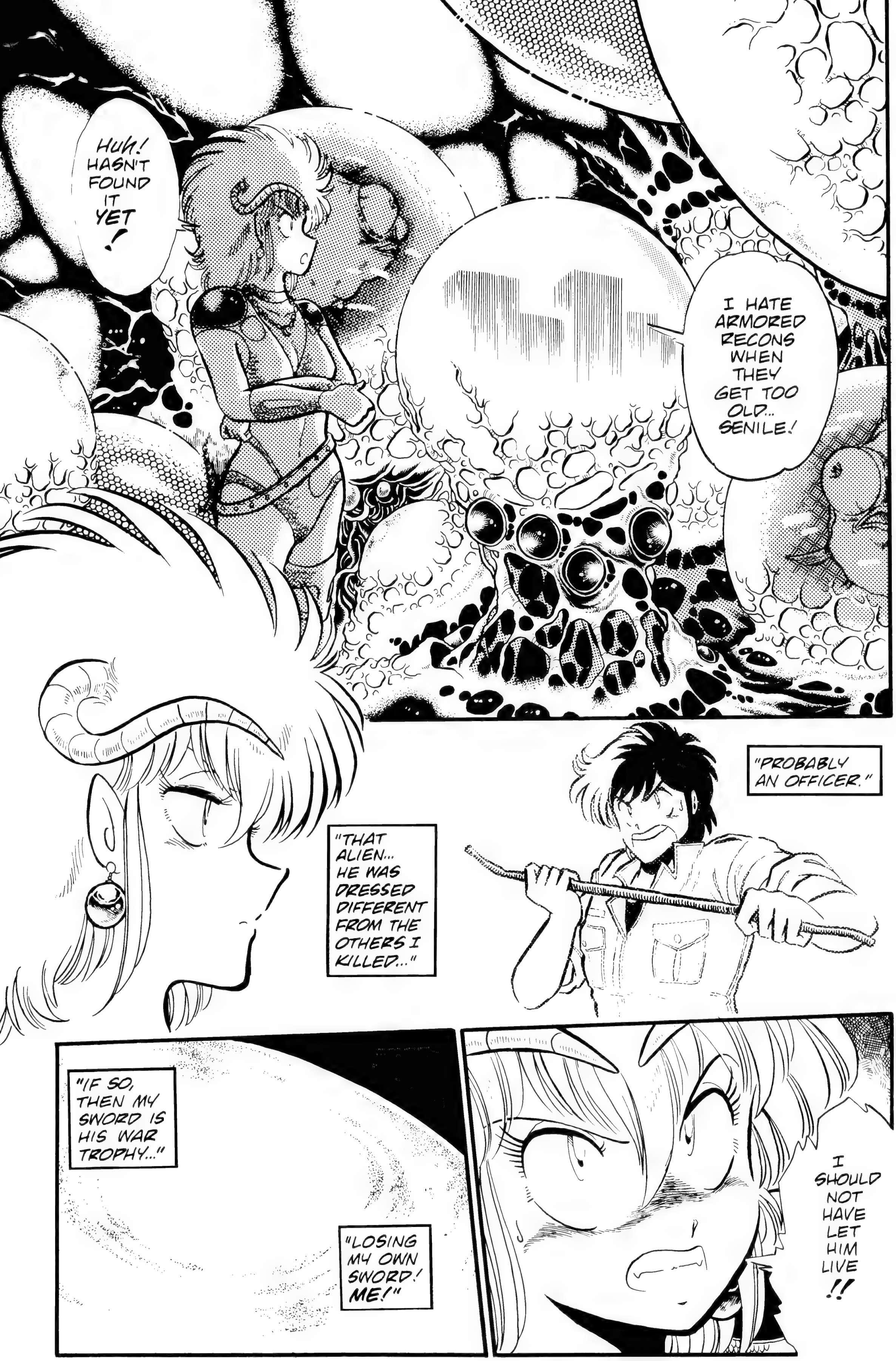

AT YOUR STRONG REQUEST, I'VE SHUT DOWN THE MASS MEDIA.
THE OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE **VERY** UNHAPPY.
THE CABINET MINISTERS ARE DEMANDING THE GAG ORDER BE LIFTED.
ALL THIS SECRECY CAN ONLY ALARM THE PUBLIC...
AND THE DEFENSE AGENCY SECRETARY-GENERAL IS **FURIOUS** ABOUT YOUR UNAUTHORIZED ACTIONS!
PRIME MINISTER OMUTA
CHIEF OF STAFF TOGO
IF THOSE MONSTERS ARE REALLY WHAT YOU SAY THEY ARE...
THEN THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW MUCH WE CAN KEEP SECRET.
YOUR JOB IS TO KEEP THE GOVERNMENT IN LINE. DO IT.
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
GENERAL TOGO!
!

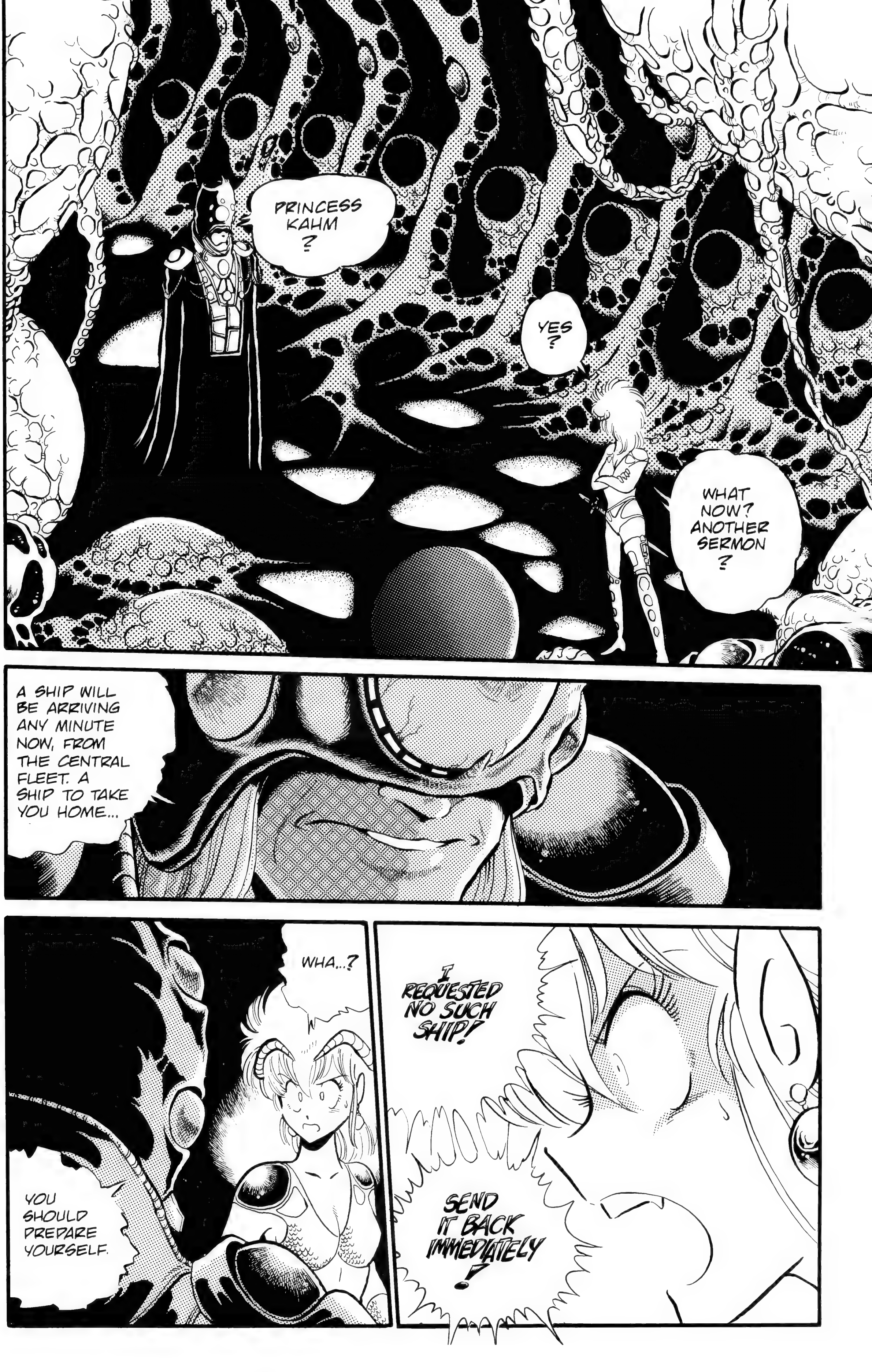

THE PRESIDENT HAS REACHED A DECISION.
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, THE 7TH FLEET AND ALL U.S. FORCES IN JAPAN ARE AVAILABLE FOR COMBAT OPERATIONS IN THE FAR EAST THEATRE.
ADMIRAL SCHIRRA: COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, U.S. FORCES JAPAN
PLEASE CONVEY MY THANKS.
JUS... JUST A MINUTE! THAT MEANS JAPAN... JAPAN WILL BECOME A BATTLEFIELD!
I IMAGINE SO...
A NIGHTMARE!
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING...
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO HOME, MR. PRIME MINISTER.
WE'RE EXPECTING AN IMPORTANT CALL ON THE HOTLINE.

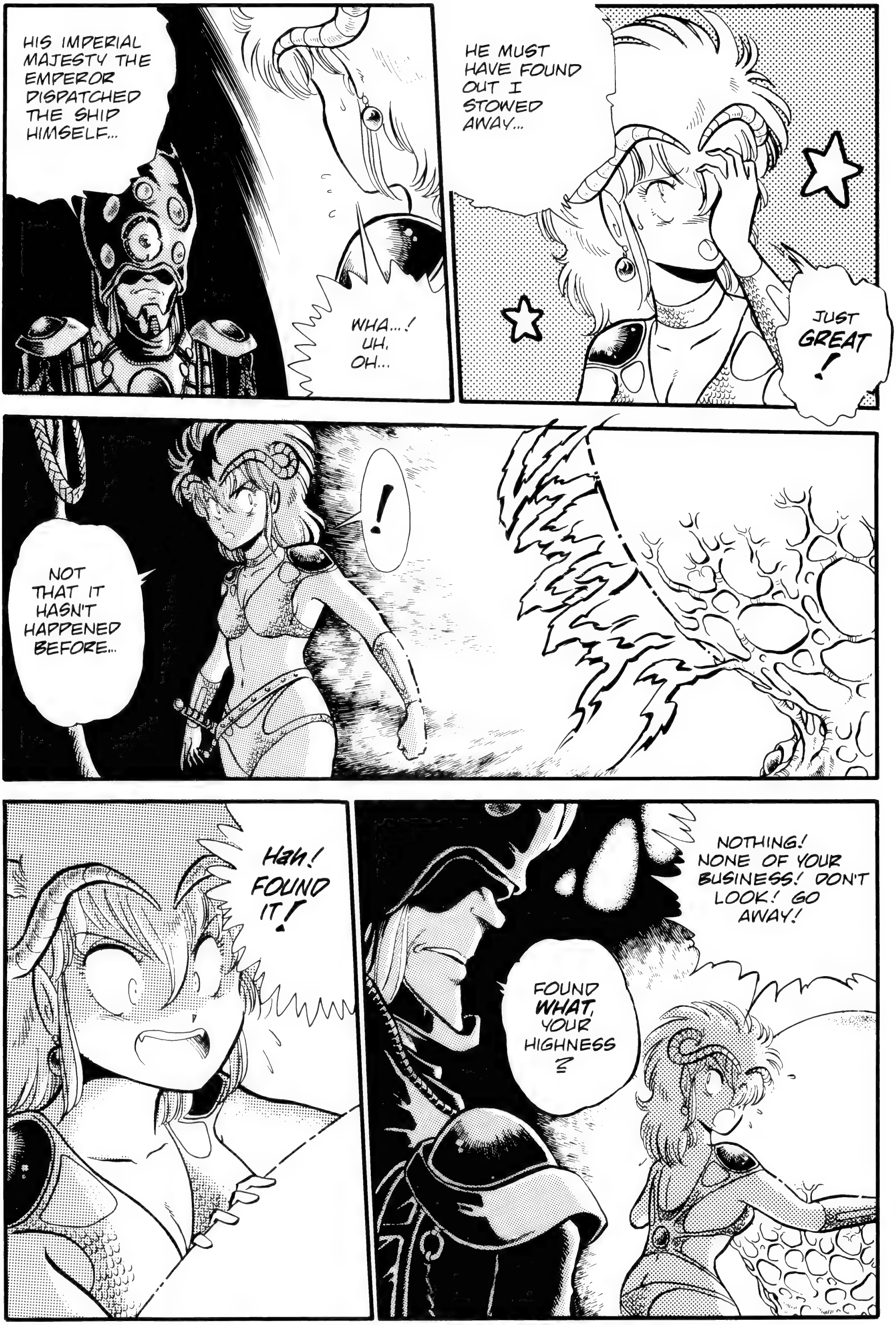

BY THE WAY, I HEAR ONE OF THOSE SHIPS HAS REAPPEARED OVER TOKYO AGAIN, A SMALL ONE. WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO?
WELL...
I'VE PUT OUR AIR DEFENSE UNITS ON ALERT.
BUT SO FAR, IT'S JUST FLYING AROUND THE SITE OF YESTERDAY'S LANDING.
WAIT AND SEE, THEN. Hmm?
BUT WHY TOKYO, AGAIN?
IN ALL HONESTY, I HAVEN'T A CLUE...
VRROOSSH

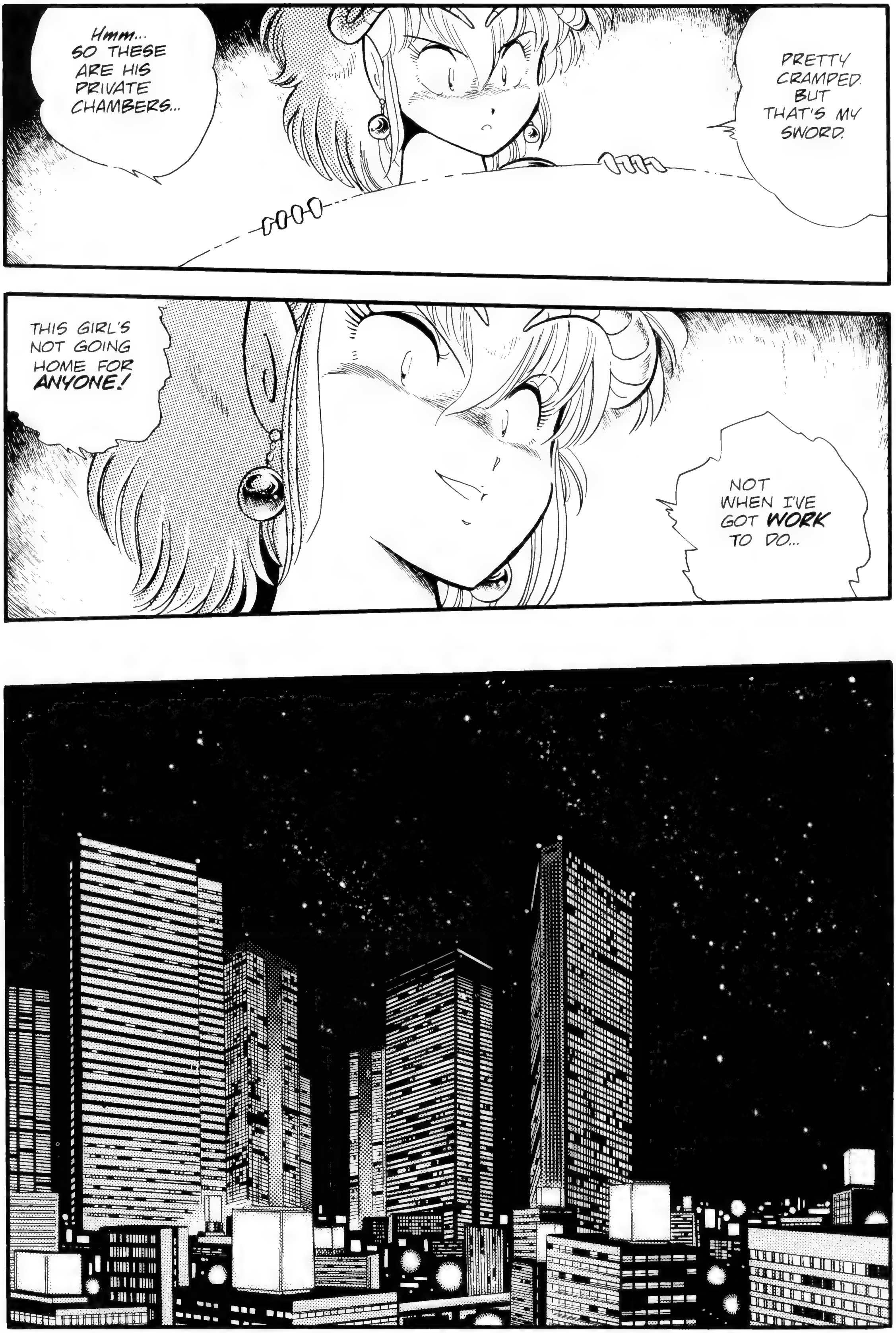

WHUP WHUP WHUP
THIRD WING, DO YOU READ?
THE MONSTER IS HEADING YOUR WAY, PRESENT HEIGHT EIGHTY METERS. ITS ALTITUDE SHIFTS ARE BECOMING MORE EXTREME...
WHUP WHUP WHUP
AM

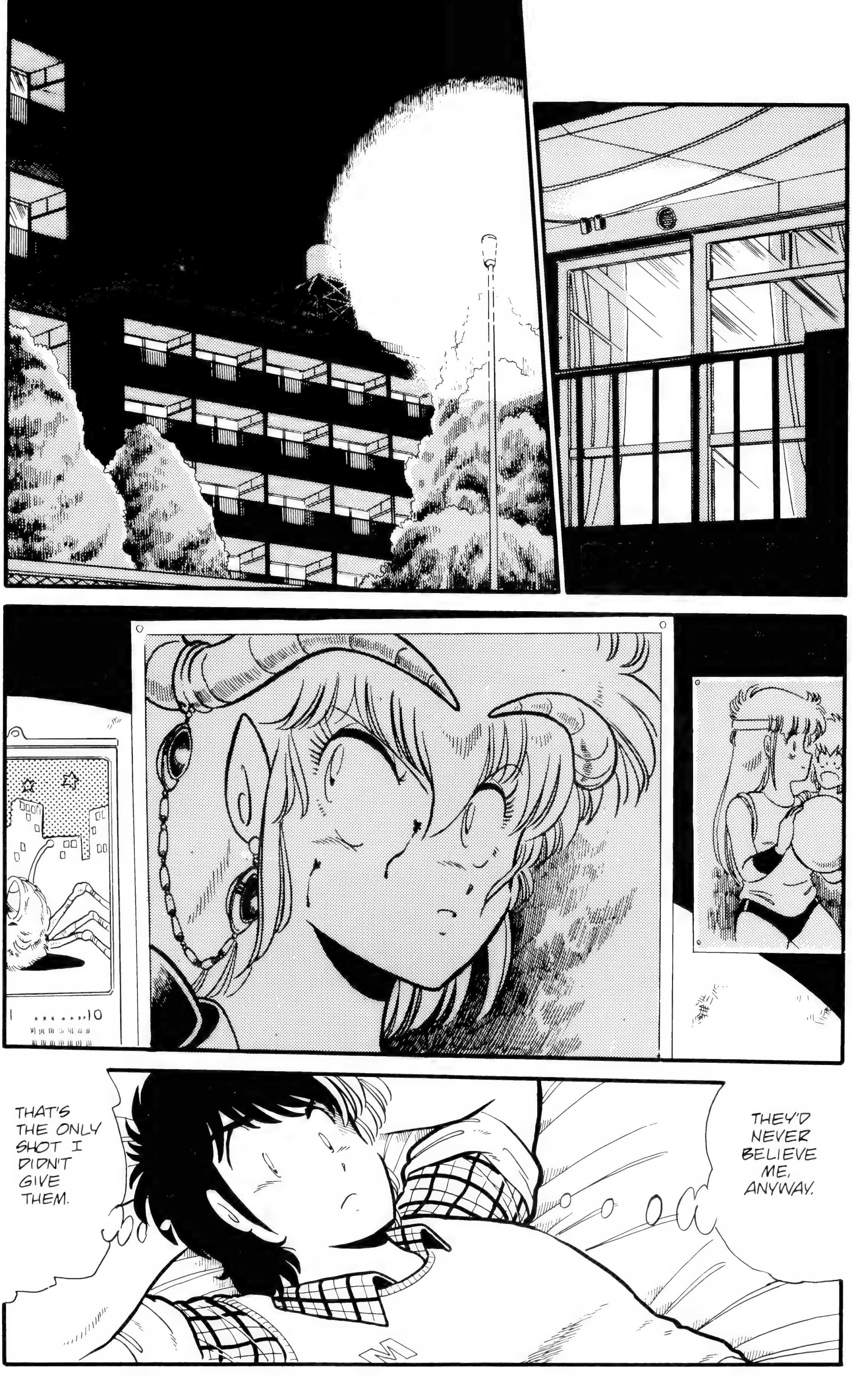

IT'S REALLY BOUNCING UP AND DOWN!
BUT IT'S NOT ATTACKING ANYTHING...
IT'S ALMOST AS IF IT WERE... SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING...
NO... IT CAN'T BE...
WRRNNNNNNNN

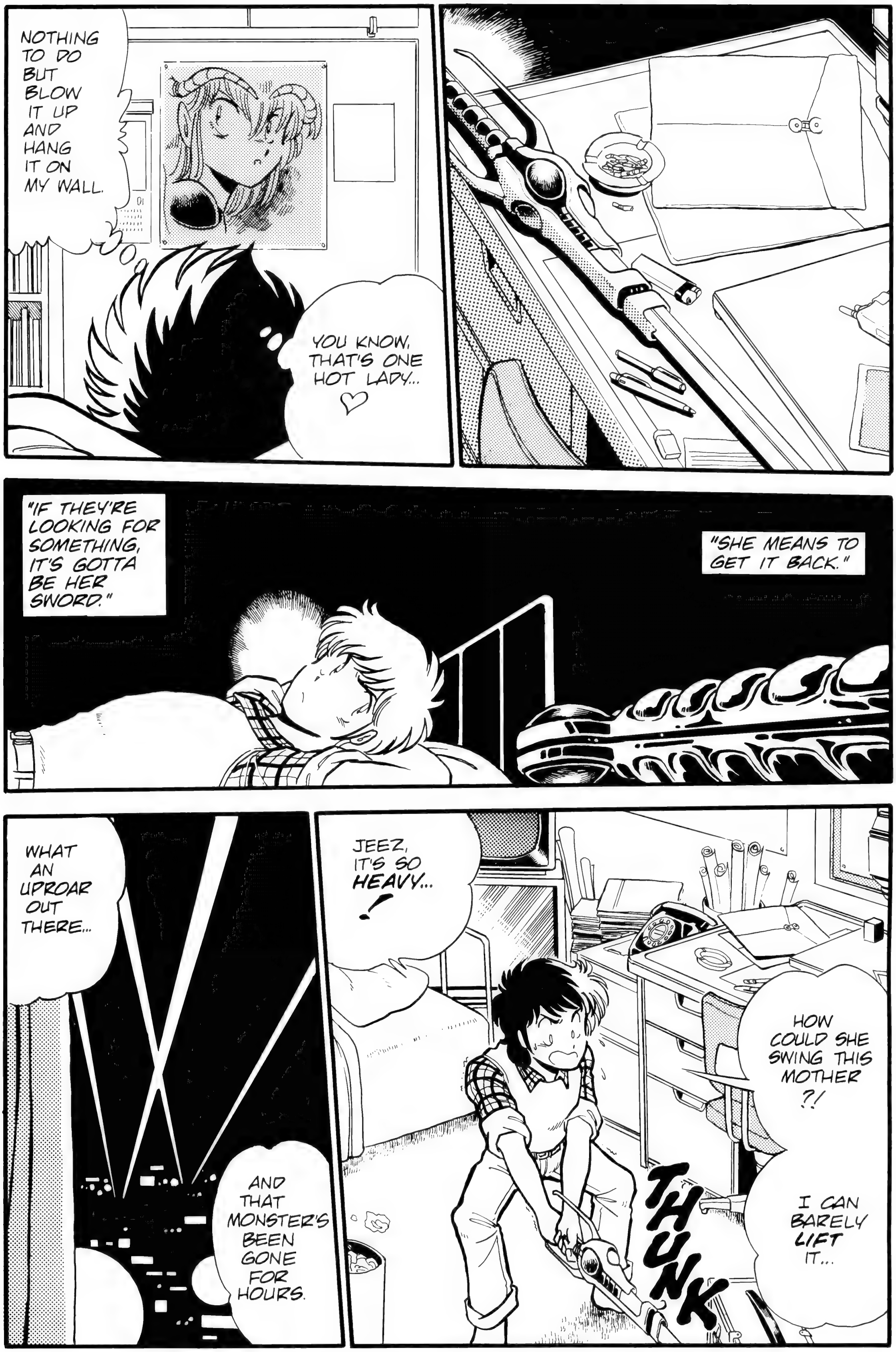

Huh! HASN'T FOUND IT YET!
I HATE ARMORED RECONS WHEN THEY GET TOO OLD... SENILE!
"THAT ALIEN... HE WAS DRESSED DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS I KILLED..."
"PROBABLY AN OFFICER."
"IF SO, THEN MY SWORD IS HIS WAR TROPHY..."
"LOSING MY OWN SWORD! ME!"
I SHOULD NOT HAVE LET HIM LIVE!!

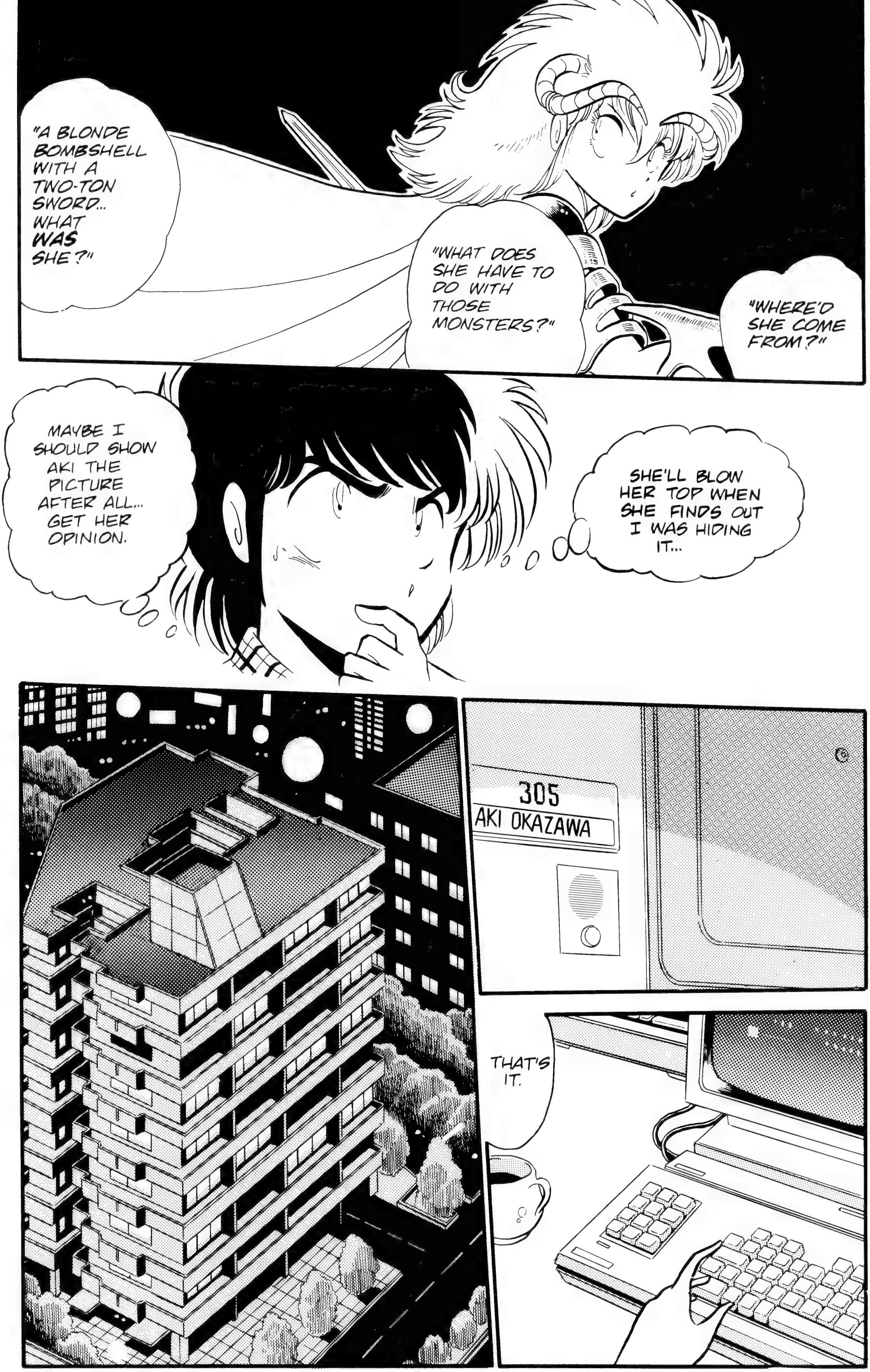

PRINCESS KAHM?
YES?
WHAT NOW? ANOTHER SERMON?
A SHIP WILL BE ARRIVING ANY MINUTE NOW, FROM THE CENTRAL FLEET. A SHIP TO TAKE YOU HOME...
WHA..?
YOU SHOULD PREPARE YOURSELF.
I REQUESTED NO SUCH SHIP!
SEND IT BACK IMMEDIATELY!

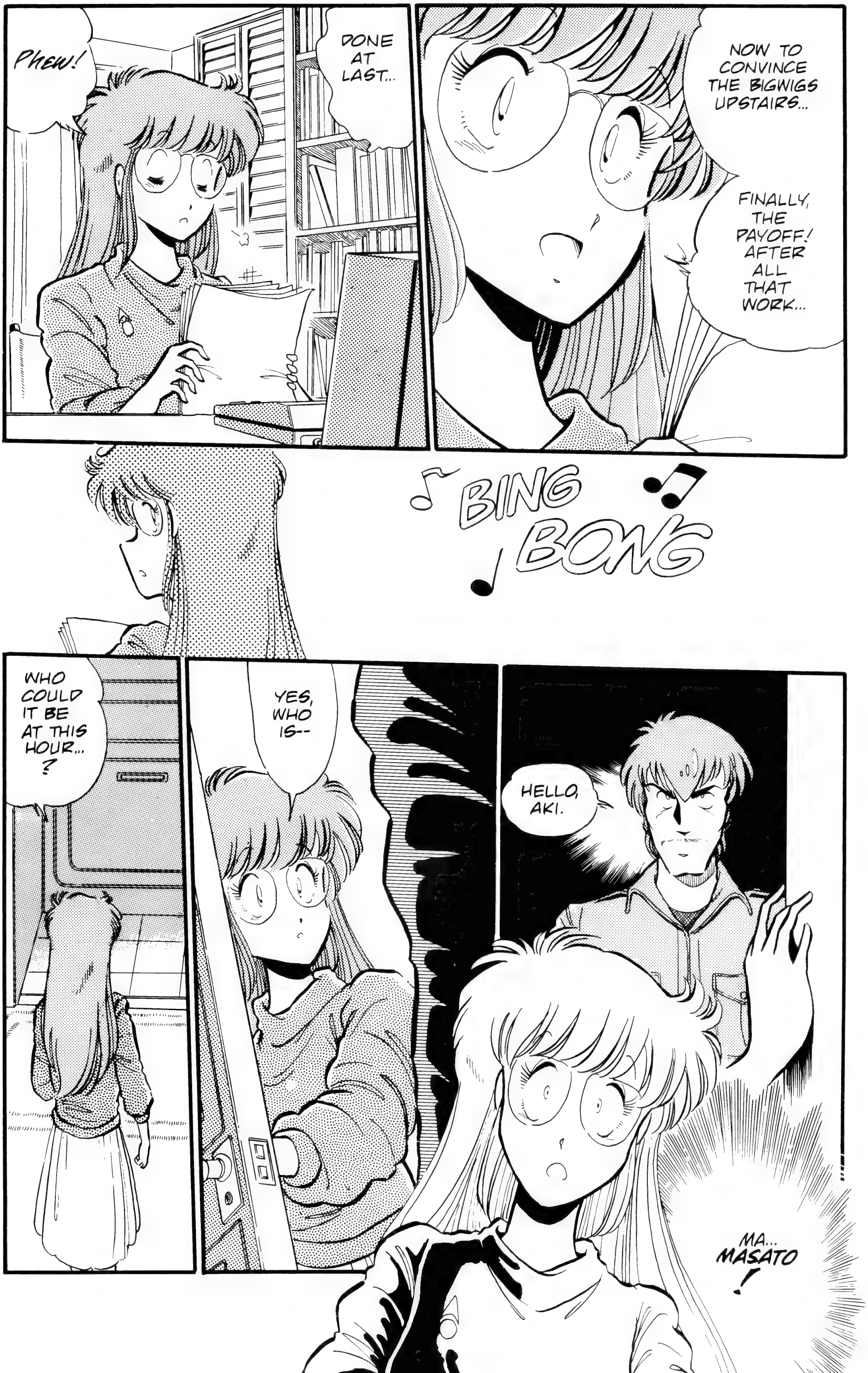

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE EMPEROR DISPATCHED THE SHIP HIMSELF...
WHA...! UH, OH...
HE MUST HAVE FOUND OUT I STOWED AWAY...
JUST GREAT!
NOT THAT IT HASN'T HAPPENED BEFORE...
!
Hah! FOUND IT!
FOUND WHAT, YOUR HIGHNESS?
NOTHING! NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! DON'T LOOK! GO AWAY!

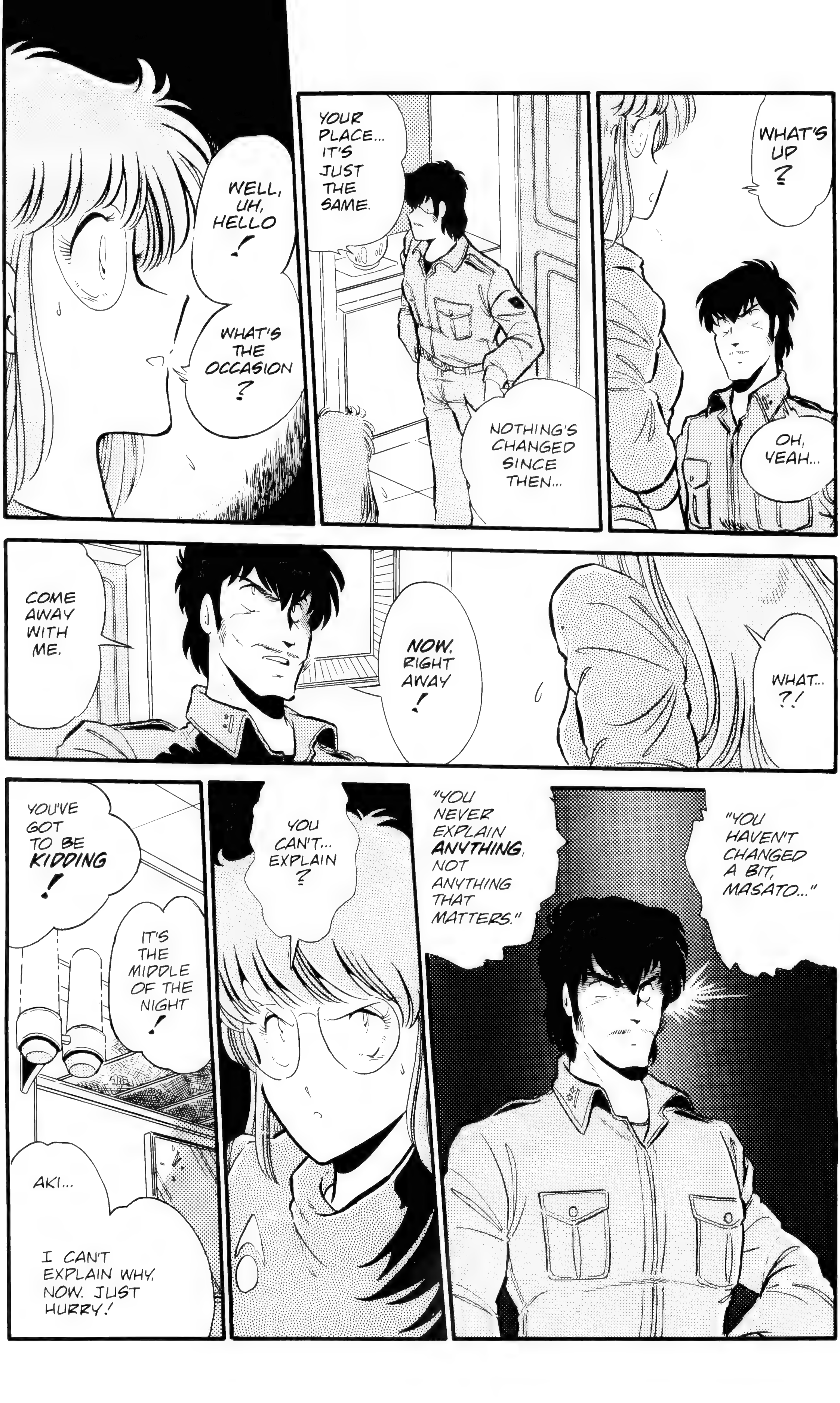

Hmm... SO THESE ARE HIS PRIVATE CHAMBERS...
PRETTY CRAMPED. BUT THAT'S MY SWORD.
THIS GIRL'S NOT GOING HOME FOR **ANYONE!**
NOT WHEN I'VE GOT **WORK** TO DO...

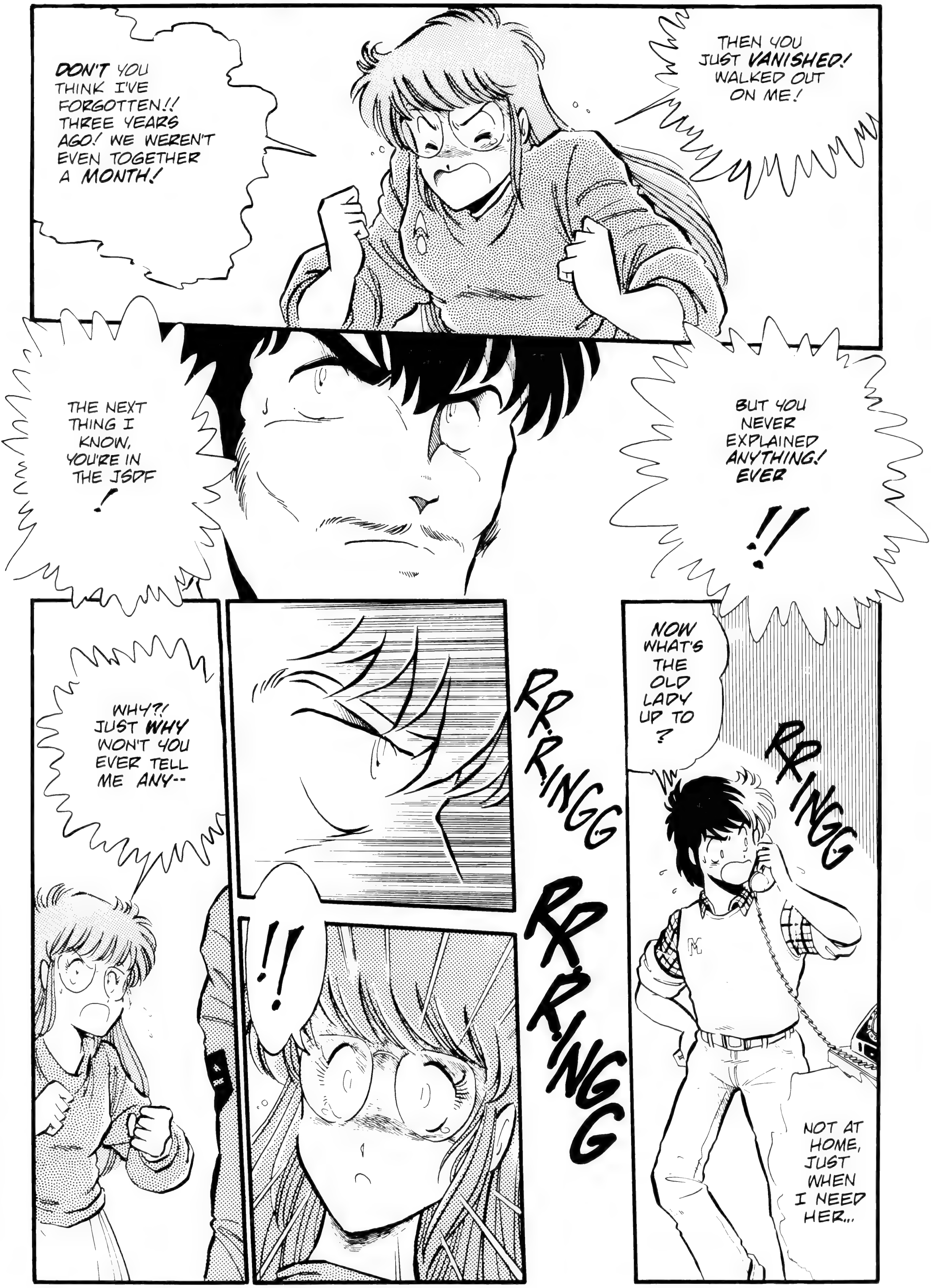

THAT'S THE ONLY SHOT I DIDN'T GIVE THEM.
THEY'D NEVER BELIEVE ME, ANYWAY.

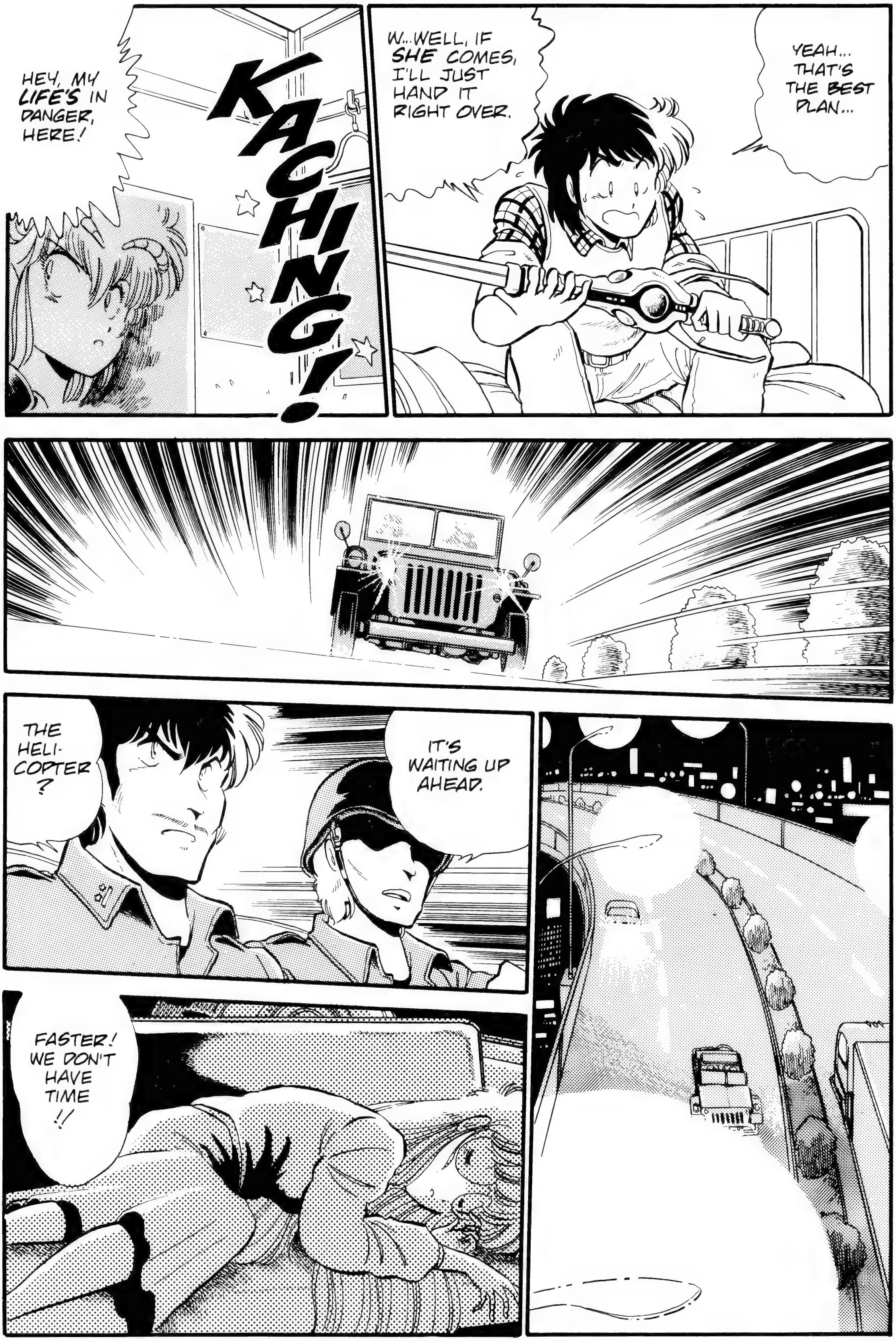

NOTHING TO DO BUT BLOW IT UP AND HANG IT ON MY WALL.
YOU KNOW, THAT'S ONE HOT LADY... ♡
"IF THEY'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING, IT'S GOTTA BE HER SWORD."
"SHE MEANS TO GET IT BACK."
WHAT AN UPROAR OUT THERE...
AND THAT MONSTER'S BEEN GONE FOR HOURS.
JEEZ, IT'S SO **HEAVY**... !
HOW COULD SHE SWING THIS MOTHER ?!
THUNK
I CAN BARELY **LIFT** IT...

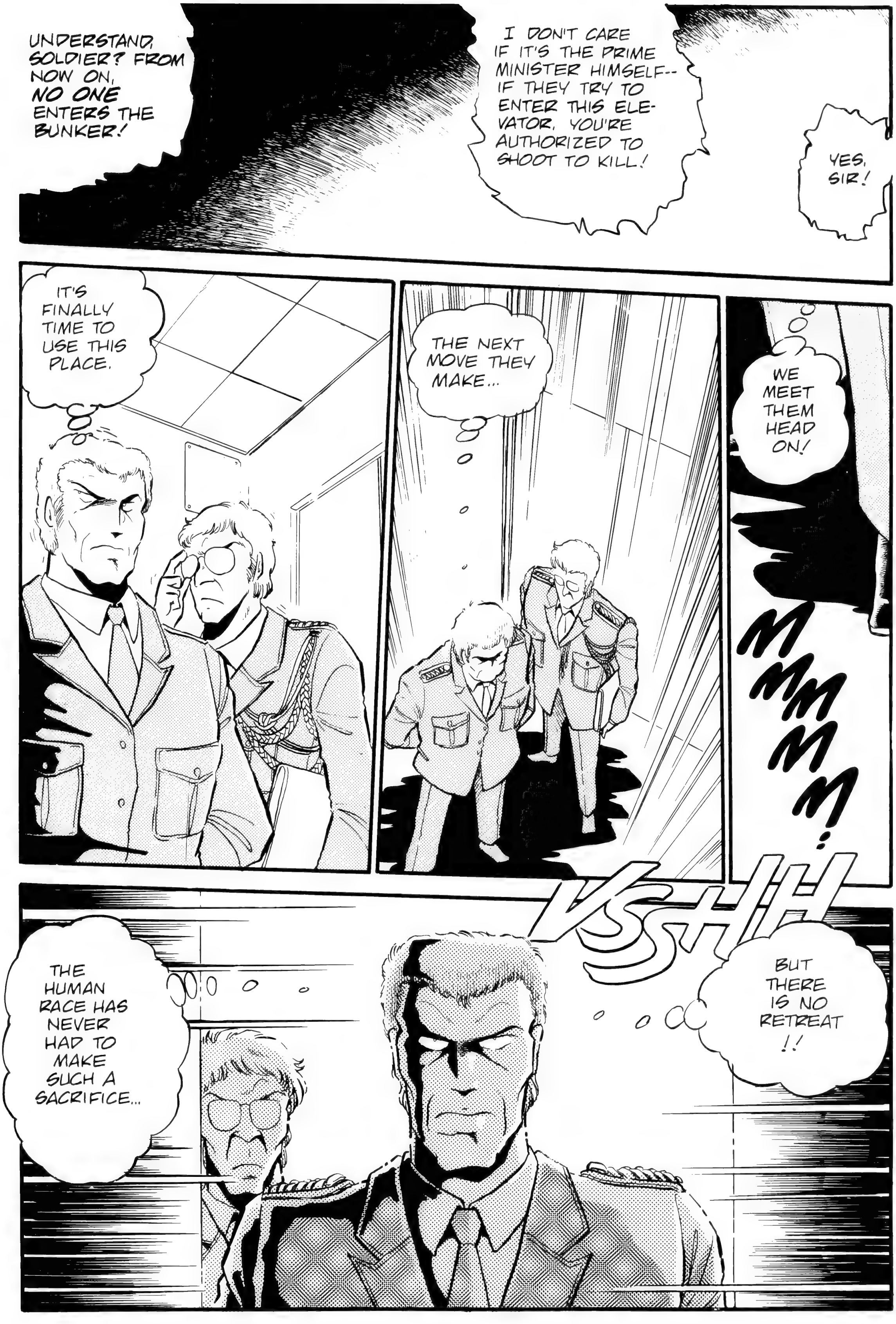

"A BLONDE BOMBSHELL WITH A TWO-TON SWORD... WHAT **WAS** SHE?"
"WHAT DOES SHE HAVE TO DO WITH THOSE MONSTERS?"
"WHERE'D SHE COME FROM?"
MAYBE I SHOULD SHOW AKI THE PICTURE AFTER ALL... GET HER OPINION.
SHE'LL BLOW HER TOP WHEN SHE FINDS OUT I WAS HIDING IT...
305
AKI OKAZAWA
THAT'S IT.

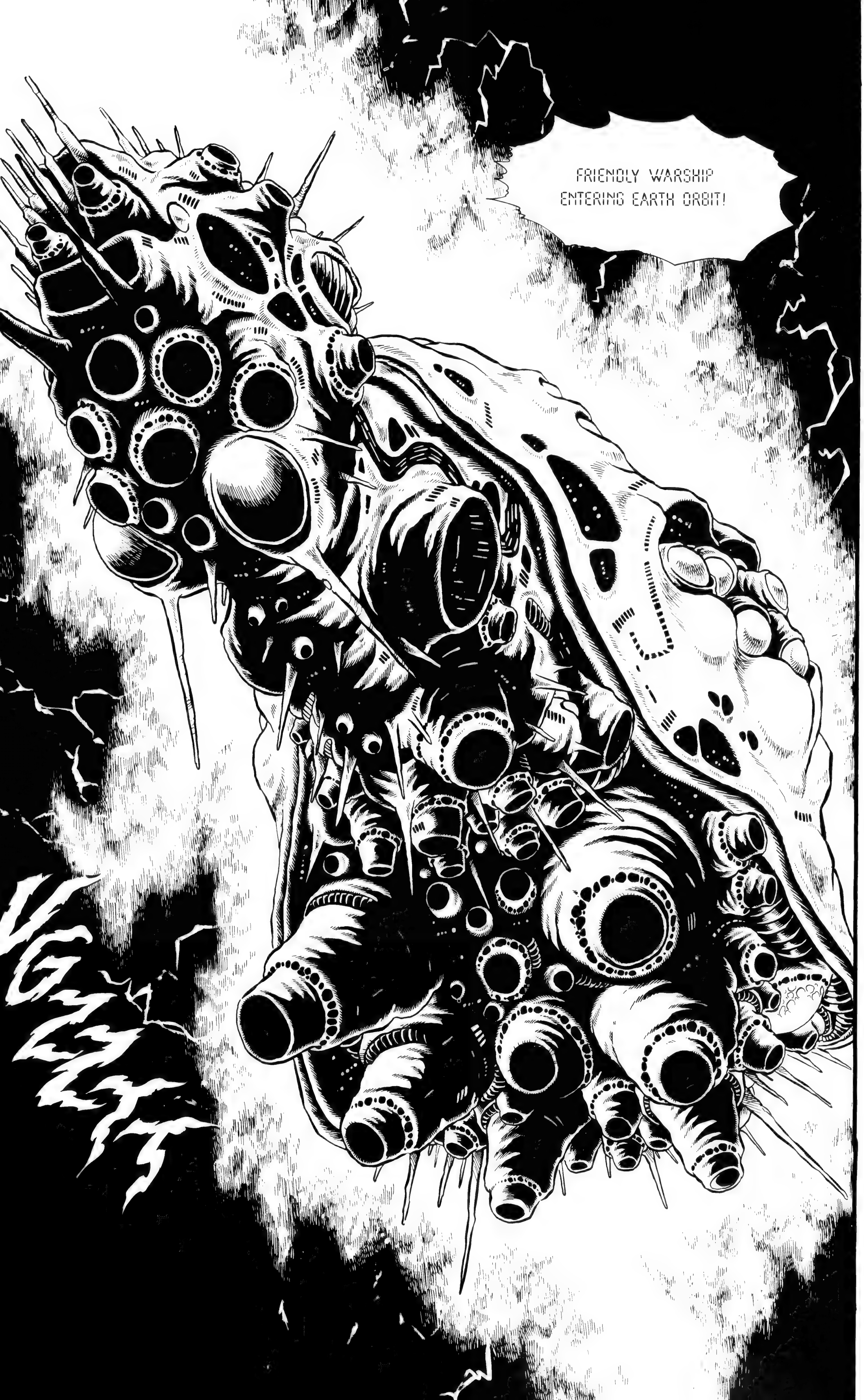

Phew!
DONE AT LAST...
NOW TO CONVINCE THE BIGWIGS UPSTAIRS...
FINALLY, THE PAYOFF! AFTER ALL THAT WORK...
BING BONG
WHO COULD IT BE AT THIS HOUR...?
YES, WHO IS--
HELLO, AKI.
MA... MASATO!

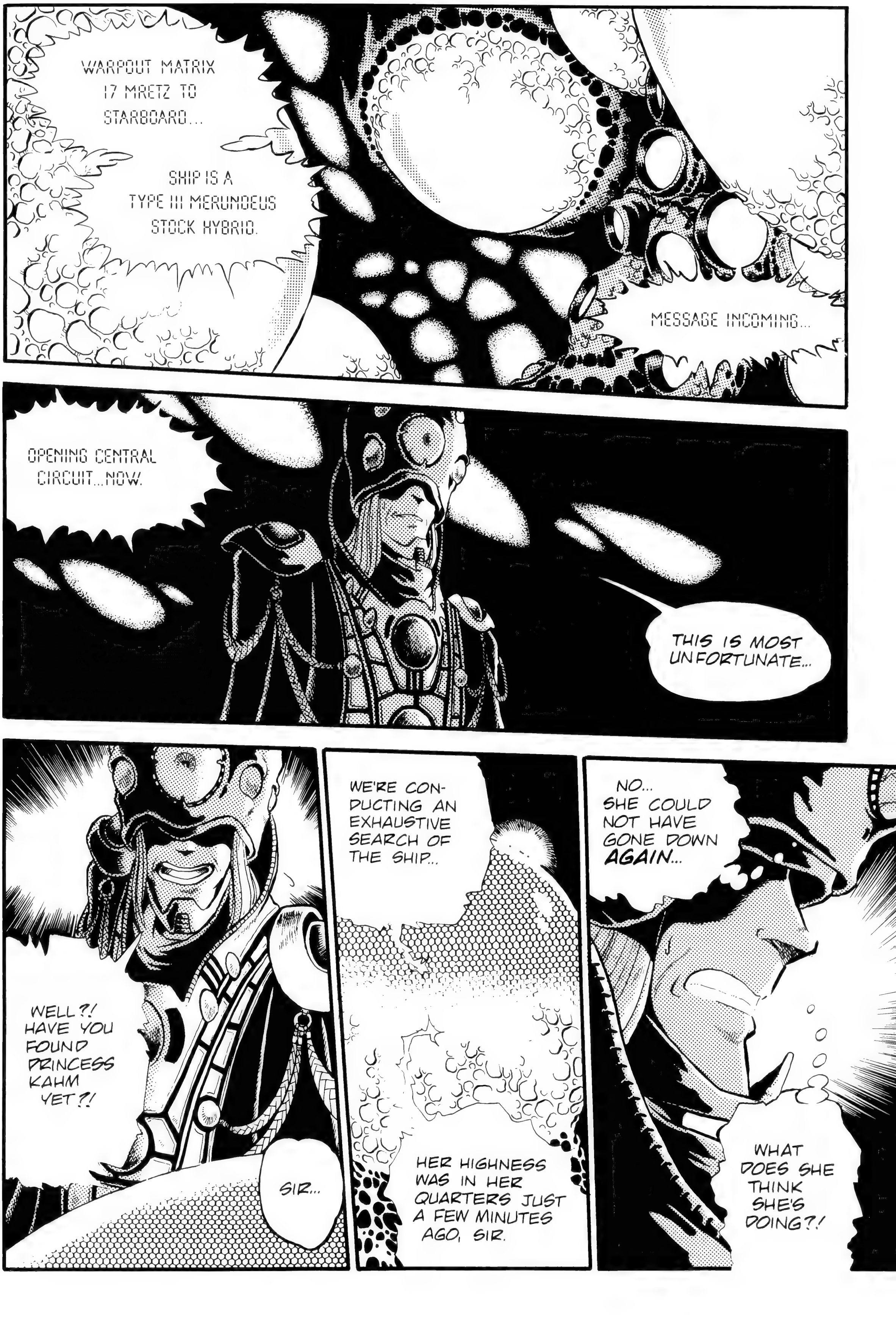

WELL, UH, HELLO!
WHAT'S THE OCCASION?
YOUR PLACE... IT'S JUST THE SAME.
NOTHING'S CHANGED SINCE THEN...
WHAT'S UP?
OH, YEAH...
COME AWAY WITH ME.
NOW. RIGHT AWAY!
WHAT...?!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE **KIDDING**!
IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!
AKI...
I CAN'T EXPLAIN WHY. NOW. JUST HURRY!
YOU CAN'T... EXPLAIN?
"YOU NEVER EXPLAIN **ANYTHING**, NOT ANYTHING THAT MATTERS."
"YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT, MASATO..."

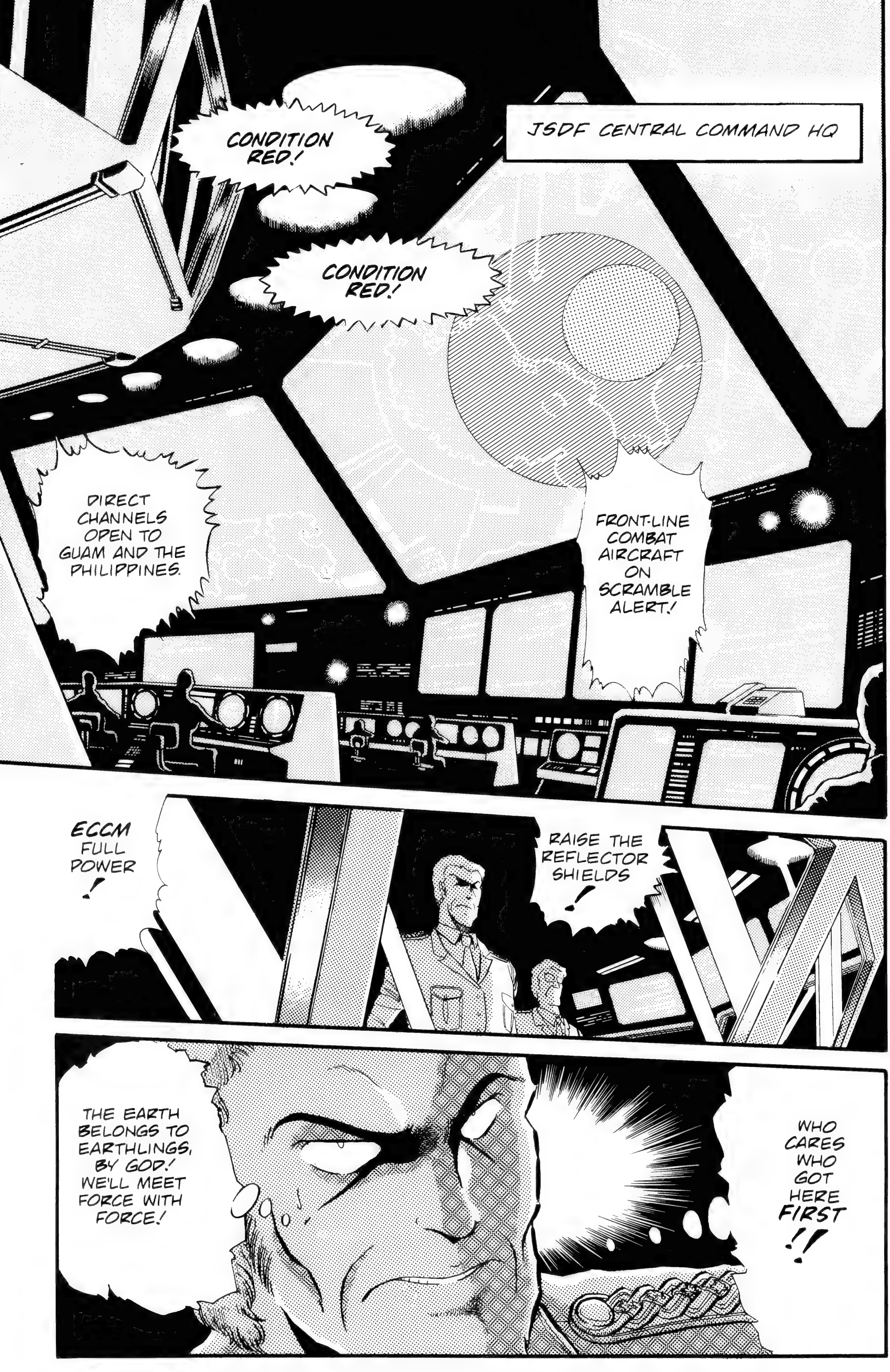

DON'T YOU THINK I'VE FORGOTTEN!! THREE YEARS AGO! WE WEREN'T EVEN TOGETHER A MONTH!
THEN YOU JUST VANISHED! WALKED OUT ON ME!
THE NEXT THING I KNOW, YOU'RE IN THE JSDF!
BUT YOU NEVER EXPLAINED ANYTHING! EVER!!
WHY?! JUST WHY WON'T YOU EVER TELL ME ANY--
!!
RR.RINGG
RR.RINGG
RRINGG
NOW WHAT'S THE OLD LADY UP TO?
NOT AT HOME, JUST WHEN I NEED HER...


HEY, MY LIFE'S IN DANGER, HERE!
KACHING!
W...WELL, IF SHE COMES, I'LL JUST HAND IT RIGHT OVER.
YEAH... THAT'S THE BEST PLAN...
THE HELI-COPTER?
IT'S WAITING UP AHEAD.
FASTER! WE DON'T HAVE TIME!!

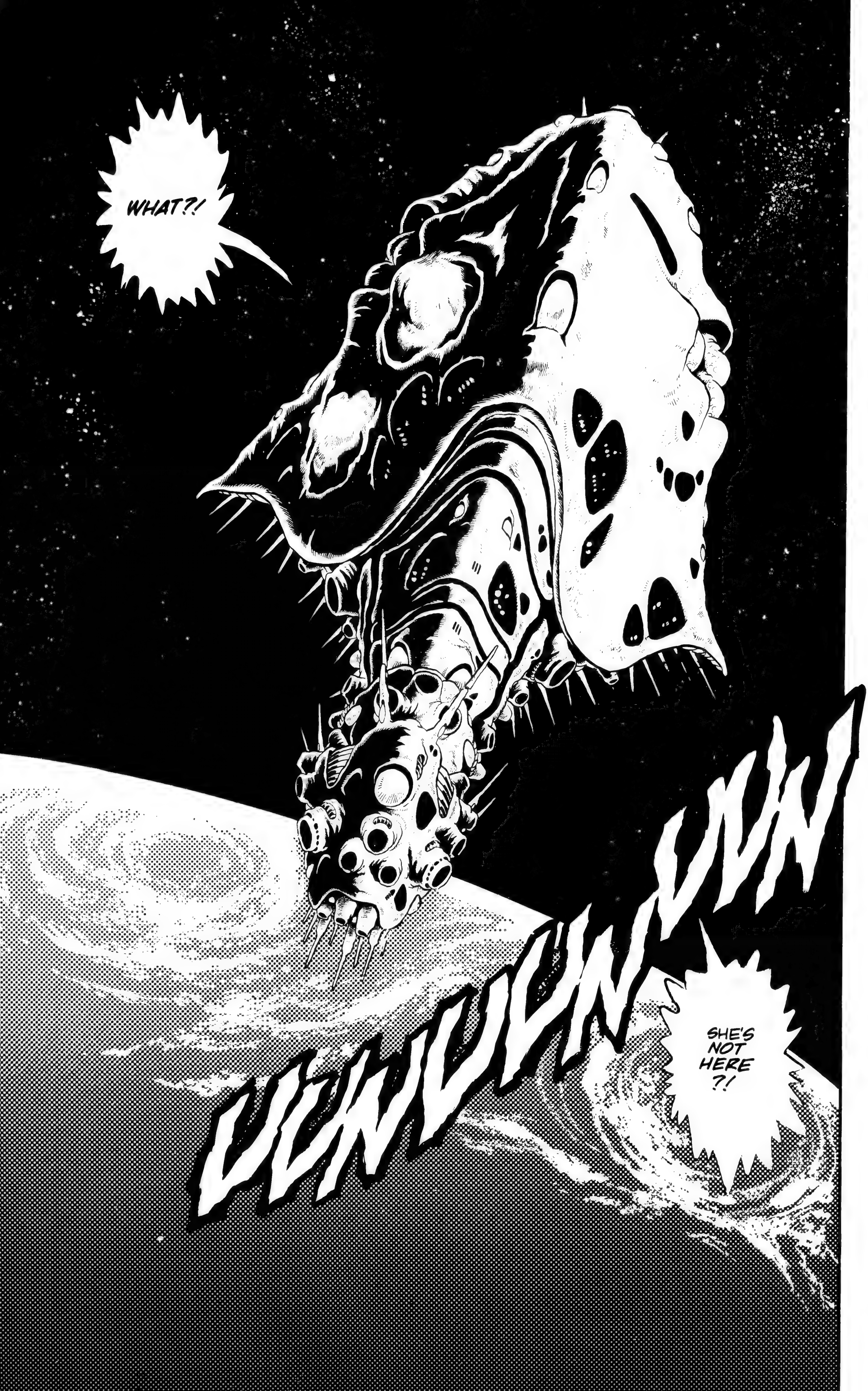

UNDERSTAND, SOLDIER? FROM NOW ON, NO ONE ENTERS THE BUNKER!
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S THE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF-- IF THEY TRY TO ENTER THIS ELEVATOR, YOU'RE AUTHORIZED TO SHOOT TO KILL!
YES, SIR!
IT'S FINALLY TIME TO USE THIS PLACE.
THE NEXT MOVE THEY MAKE...
WE MEET THEM HEAD ON!
MMMMMM!
VSHH
THE HUMAN RACE HAS NEVER HAD TO MAKE SUCH A SACRIFICE...
BUT THERE IS NO RETREAT!!

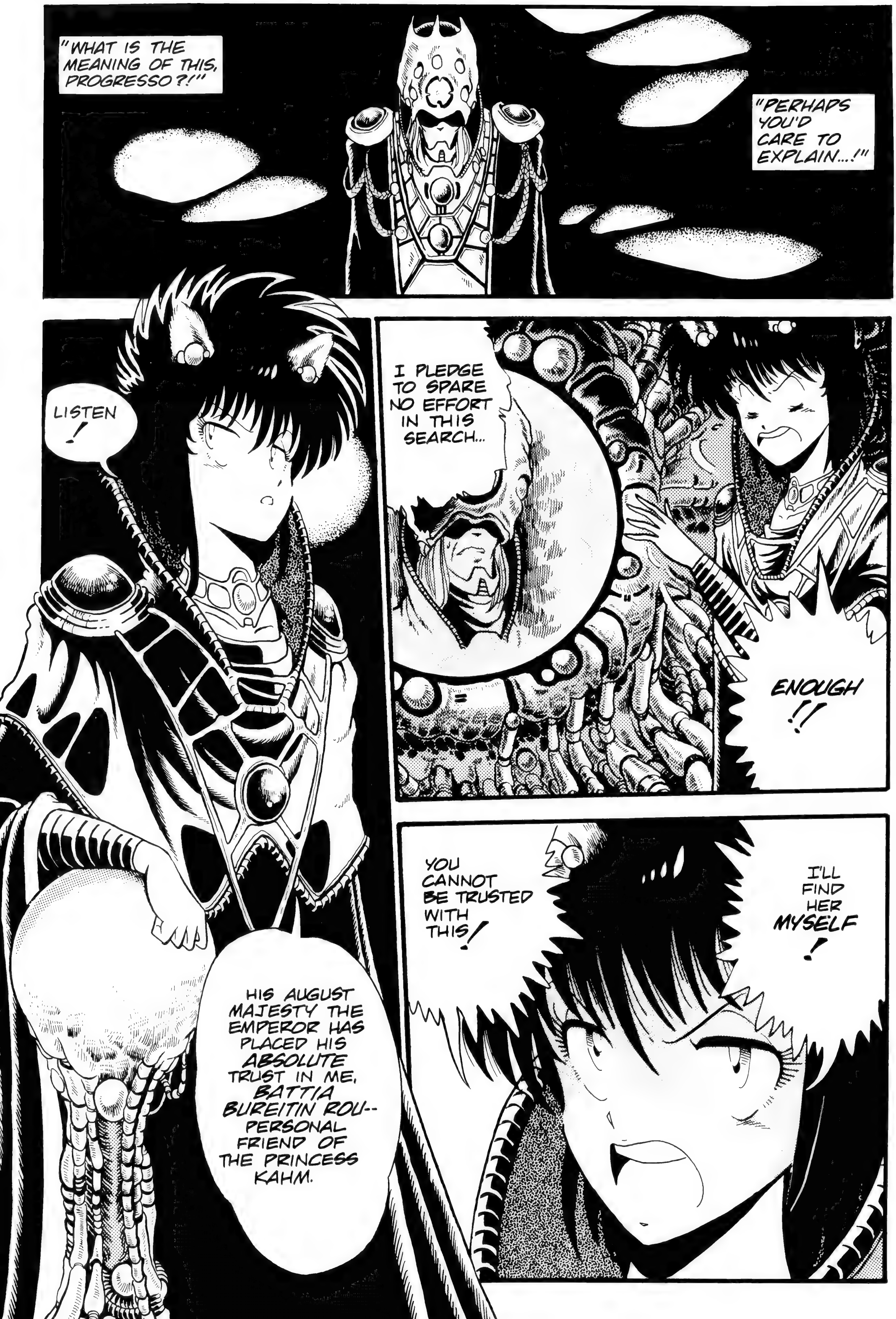

FRIENDLY WARSHIP ENTERING EARTH ORBIT!
VGZZZTT

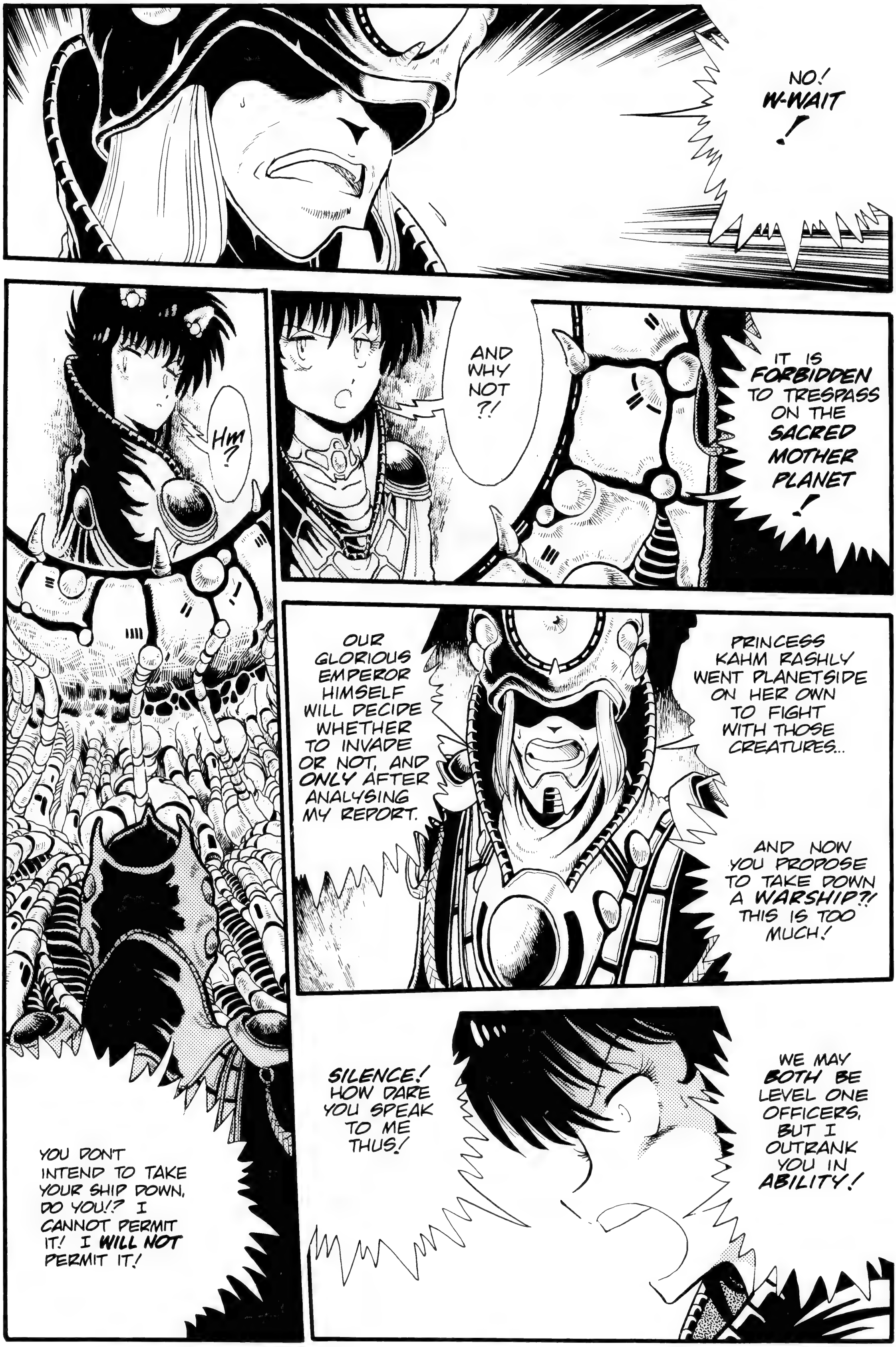

WARPOUT MATRIX 17 MRETZ TO STARBOARD...
SHIP IS A TYPE III MERUNDEUS STOCK HYBRID.
MESSAGE INCOMING...
OPENING CENTRAL CIRCUIT...NOW.
THIS IS MOST UNFORTUNATE...
WELL?! HAVE YOU FOUND PRINCESS KAHM YET?!
SIR...
WE'RE CONDUCTING AN EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH OF THE SHIP...
HER HIGHNESS WAS IN HER QUARTERS JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO, SIR.
NO... SHE COULD NOT HAVE GONE DOWN AGAIN...
WHAT DOES SHE THINK SHE'S DOING?!

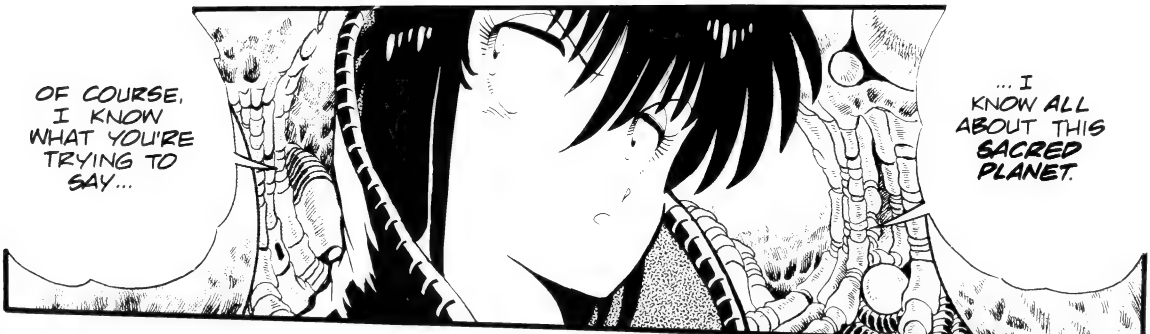

JSDF CENTRAL COMMAND HQ
CONDITION RED!
CONDITION RED!
DIRECT CHANNELS OPEN TO GUAM AND THE PHILIPPINES.
FRONT-LINE COMBAT AIRCRAFT ON SCRAMBLE ALERT!
ECCM FULL POWER!
RAISE THE REFLECTOR SHIELDS!
THE EARTH BELONGS TO EARTHLINGS, BY GOD! WE'LL MEET FORCE WITH FORCE!
WHO CARES WHO GOT HERE FIRST!!

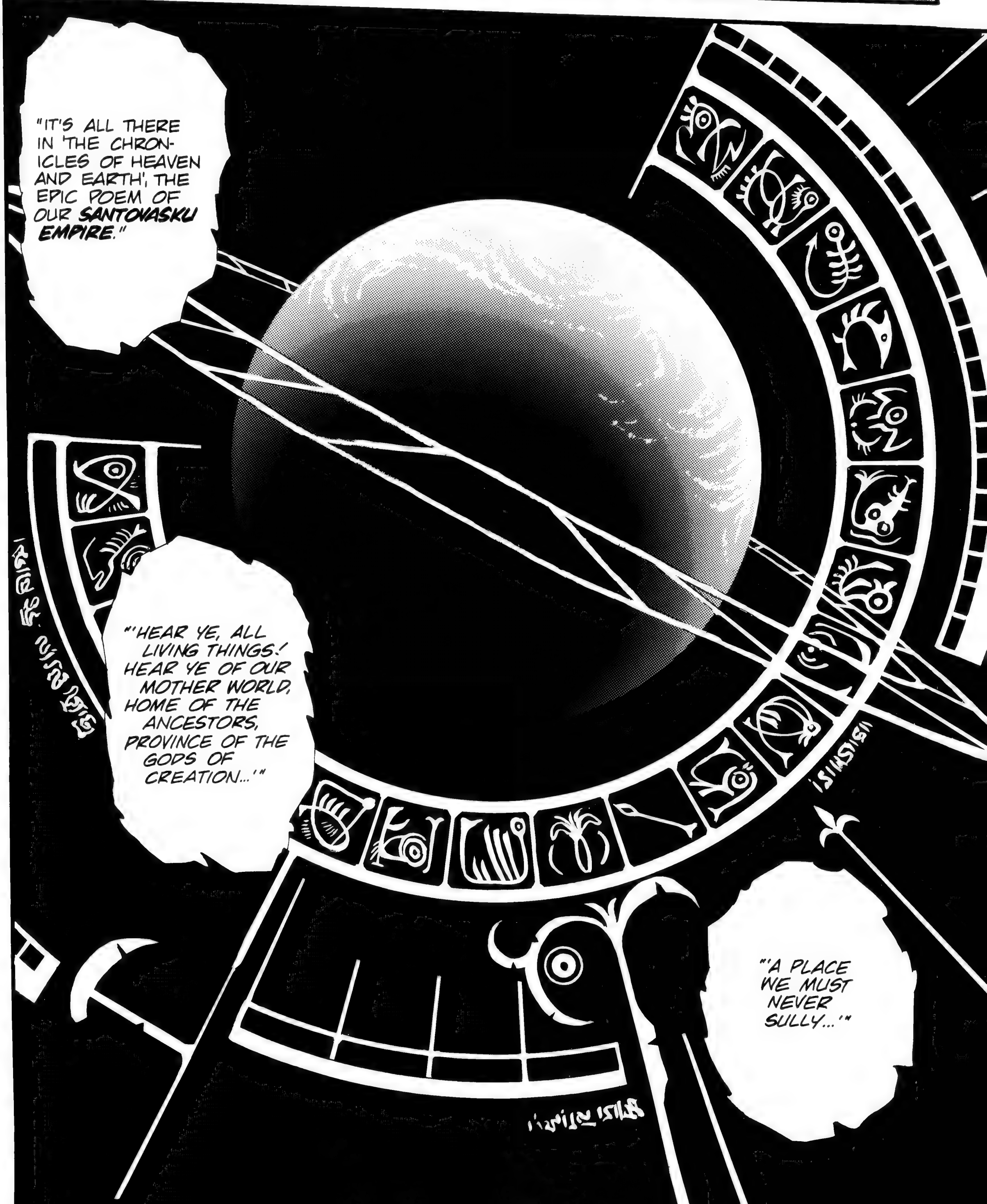
CHAPTER 3

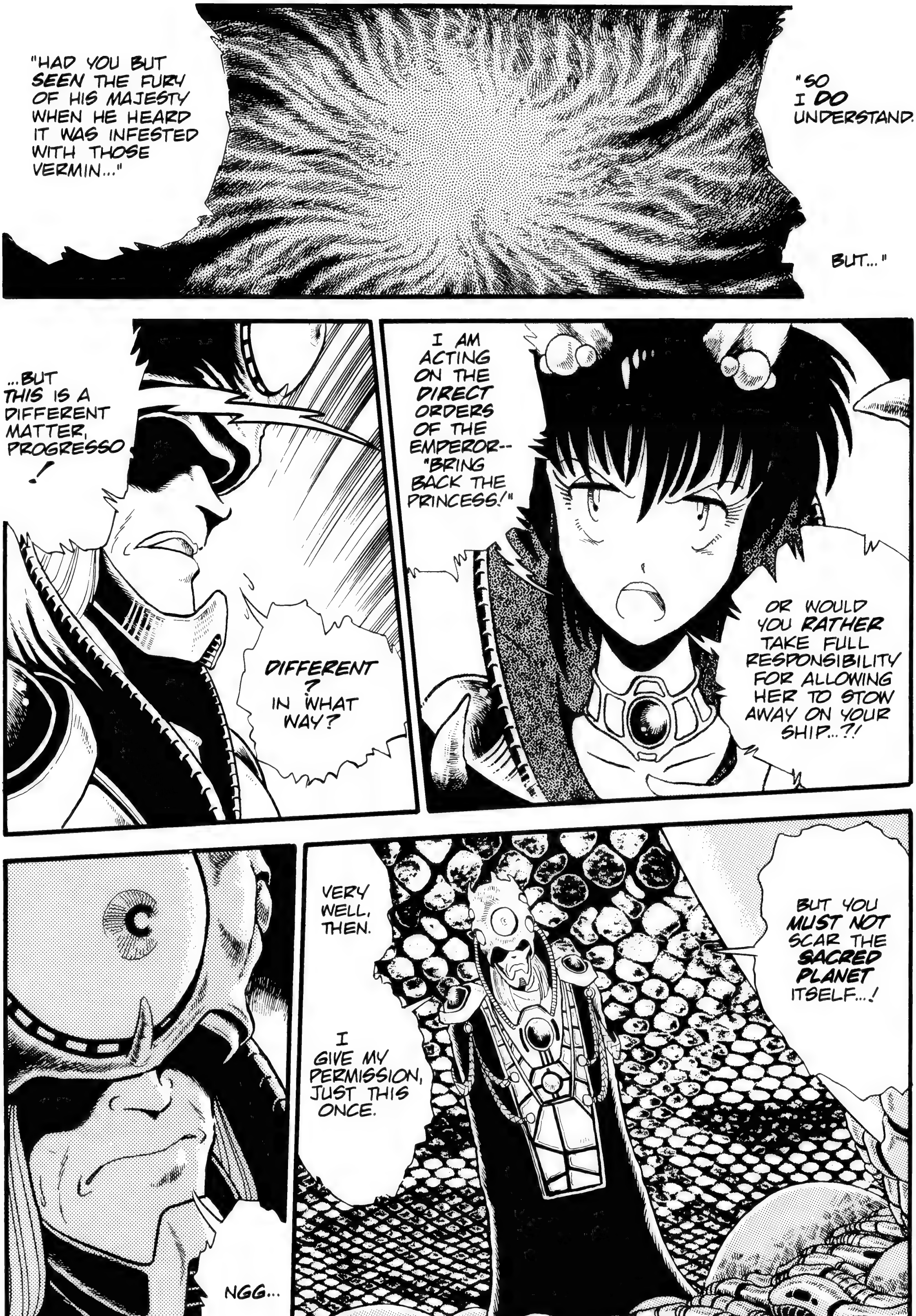

WHAT?!
UUNNUUNNUUN
SHE'S NOT HERE ?!

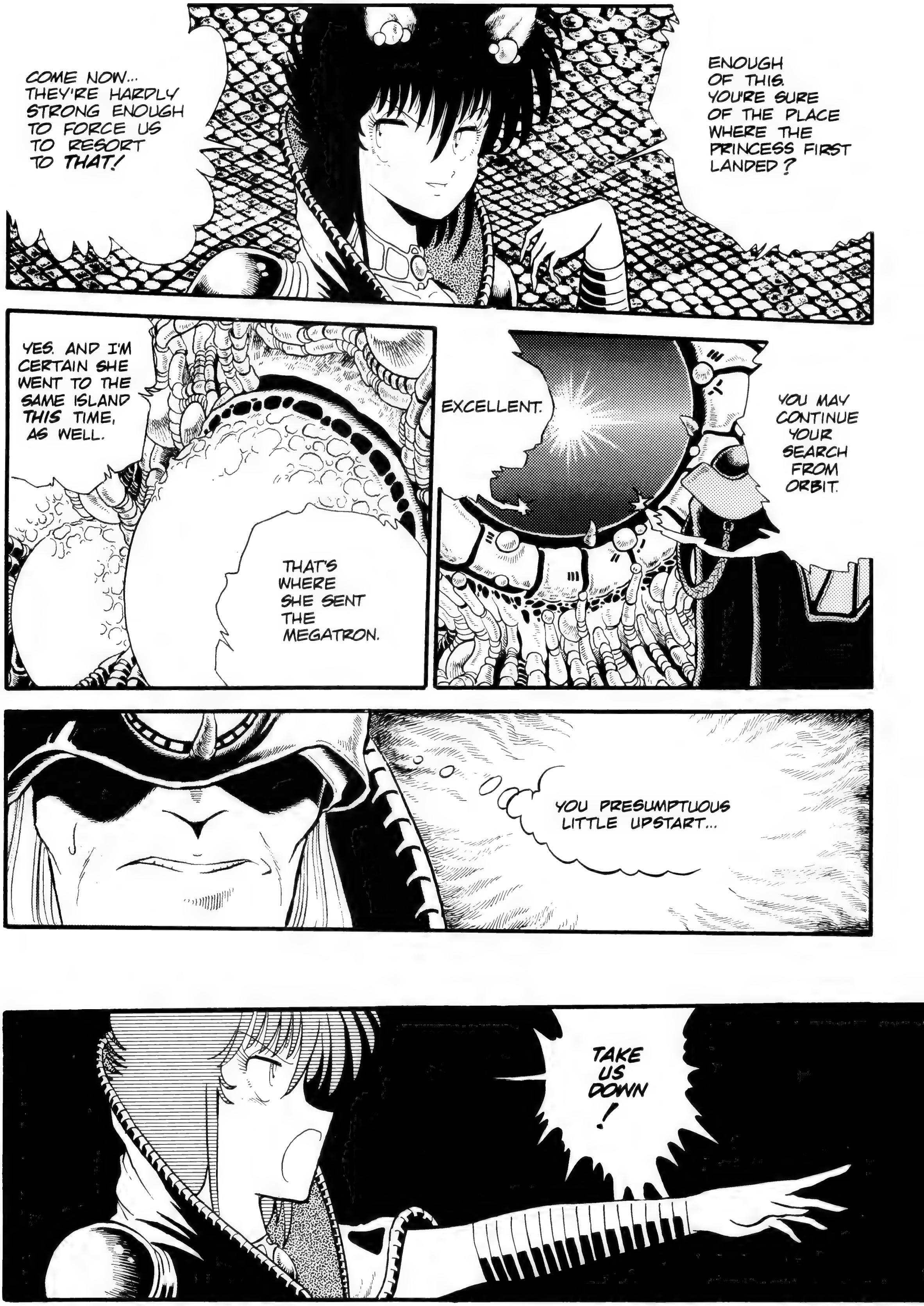

"WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, PROGRESSO?!"
"PERHAPS YOU'D CARE TO EXPLAIN...!"
LISTEN!
HIS AUGUST MAJESTY THE EMPEROR HAS PLACED HIS *ABSOLUTE* TRUST IN ME, *BATTIA BUREITIN ROU*-- PERSONAL FRIEND OF THE PRINCESS KAHM.
I PLEDGE TO SPARE NO EFFORT IN THIS SEARCH...
ENOUGH!!
YOU CANNOT BE TRUSTED WITH THIS!
I'LL FIND HER *MYSELF*!

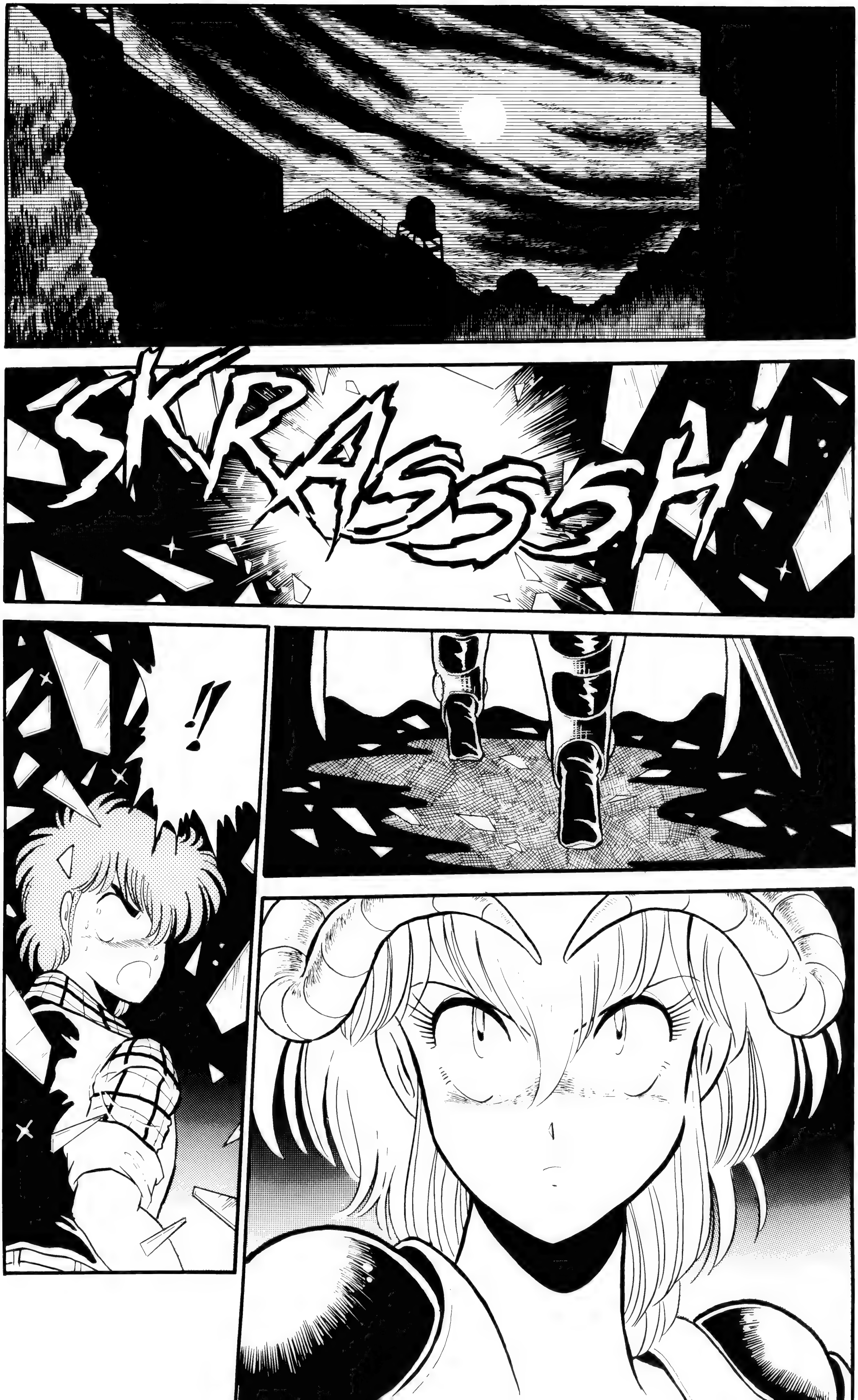

NO! W-WAIT!
Hm?
AND WHY NOT?!
IT IS FORBIDDEN TO TRESPASS ON THE SACRED MOTHER PLANET!
PRINCESS KAHM RASHLY WENT PLANETSIDE ON HER OWN TO FIGHT WITH THOSE CREATURES...
AND NOW YOU PROPOSE TO TAKE DOWN A WARSHIP?! THIS IS TOO MUCH!
OUR GLORIOUS EMPEROR HIMSELF WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO INVADE OR NOT, AND ONLY AFTER ANALYSING MY REPORT.
YOU DONT INTEND TO TAKE YOUR SHIP DOWN, DO YOU!? I CANNOT PERMIT IT! I WILL NOT PERMIT IT!
SILENCE! HOW DARE YOU SPEAK TO ME THUS!
WE MAY BOTH BE LEVEL ONE OFFICERS, BUT I OUTRANK YOU IN ABILITY!

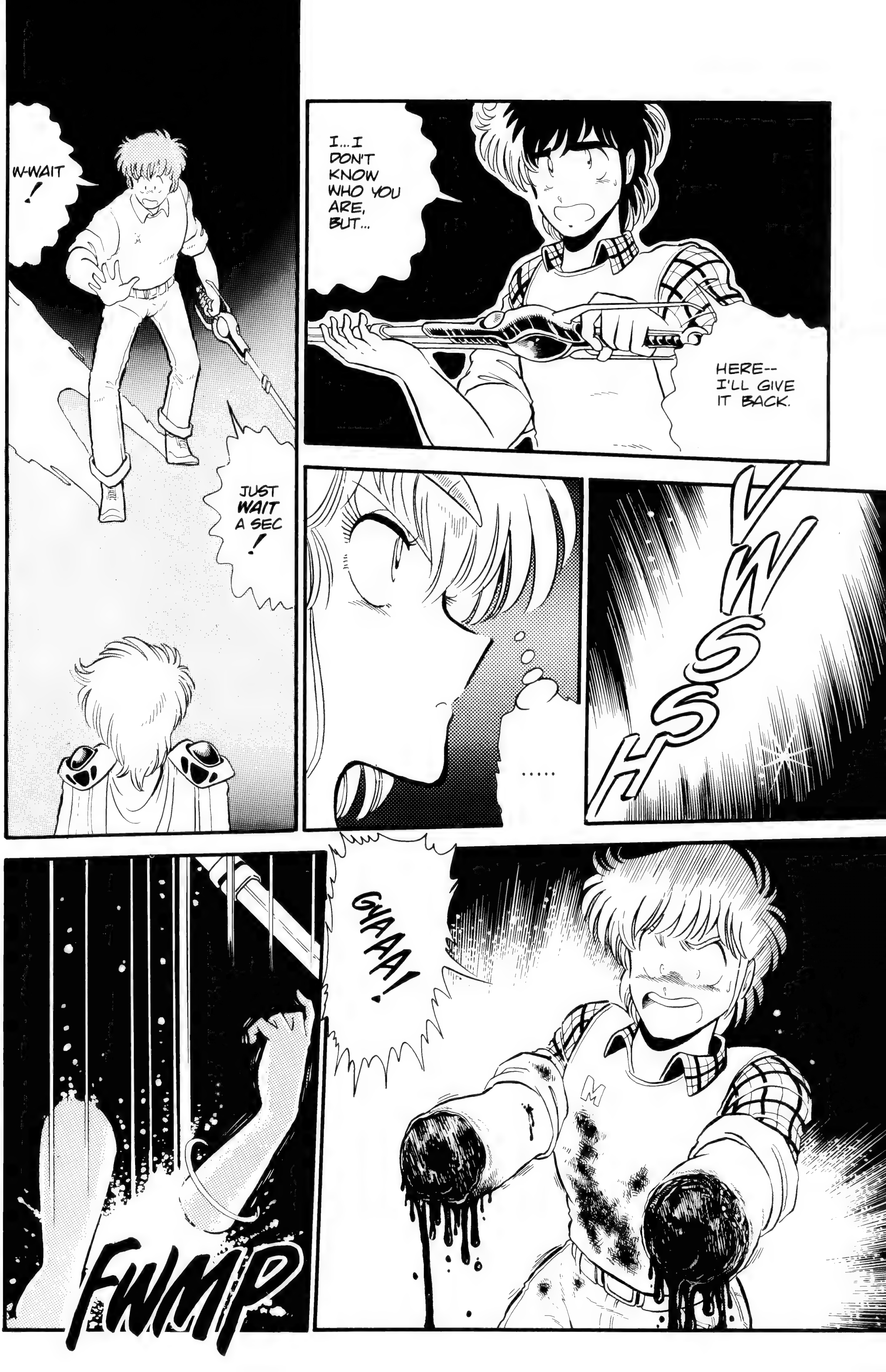

OF COURSE, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY...
... I KNOW **ALL** ABOUT THIS **SACRED PLANET**.

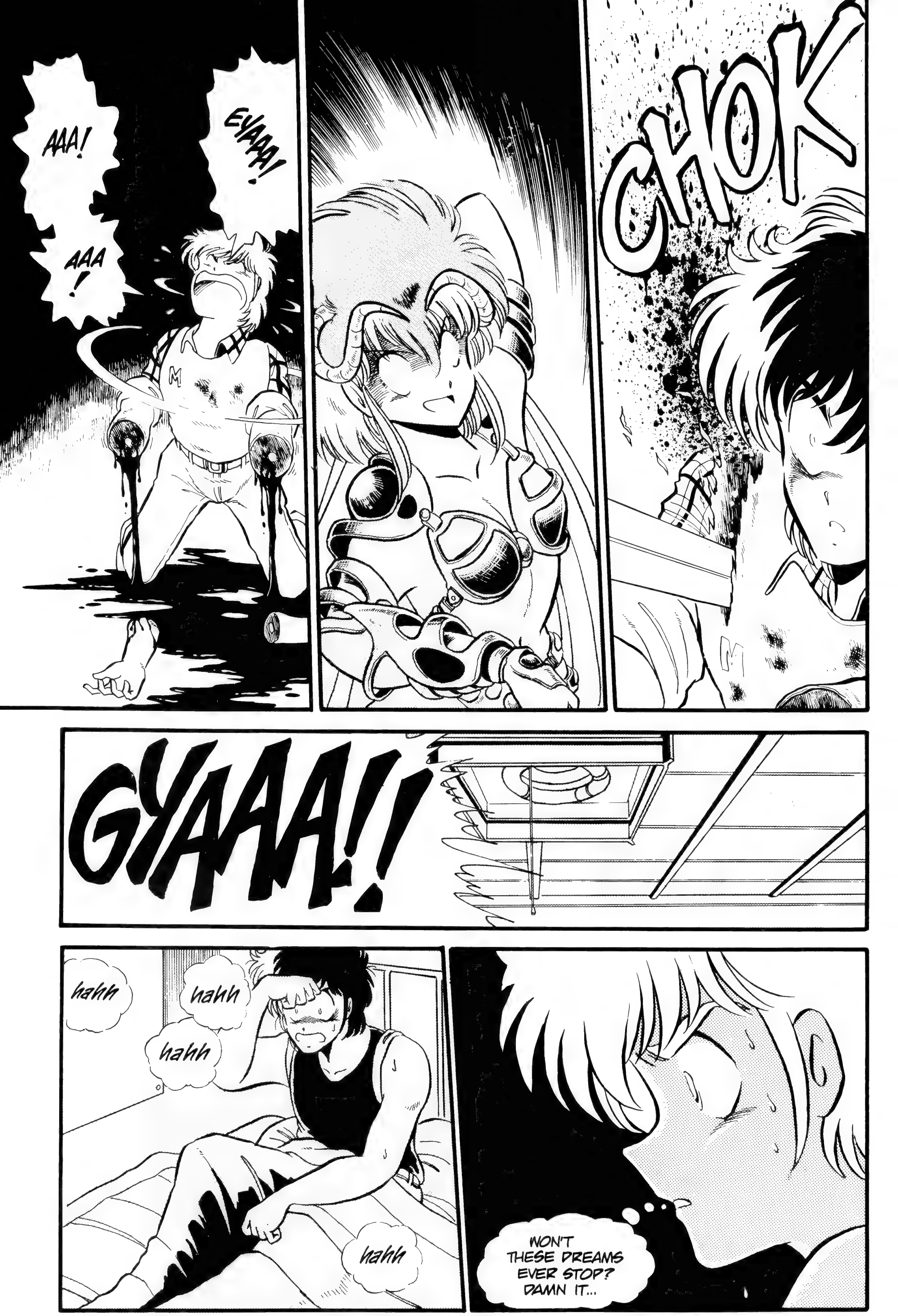

"IT'S ALL THERE IN 'THE CHRONICLES OF HEAVEN AND EARTH', THE EPIC POEM OF OUR **SANTOVASKU EMPIRE**."
"'*HEAR YE, ALL LIVING THINGS! HEAR YE OF OUR MOTHER WORLD, HOME OF THE ANCESTORS, PROVINCE OF THE GODS OF CREATION...*'"
"'*A PLACE WE MUST NEVER SULLY...*'"

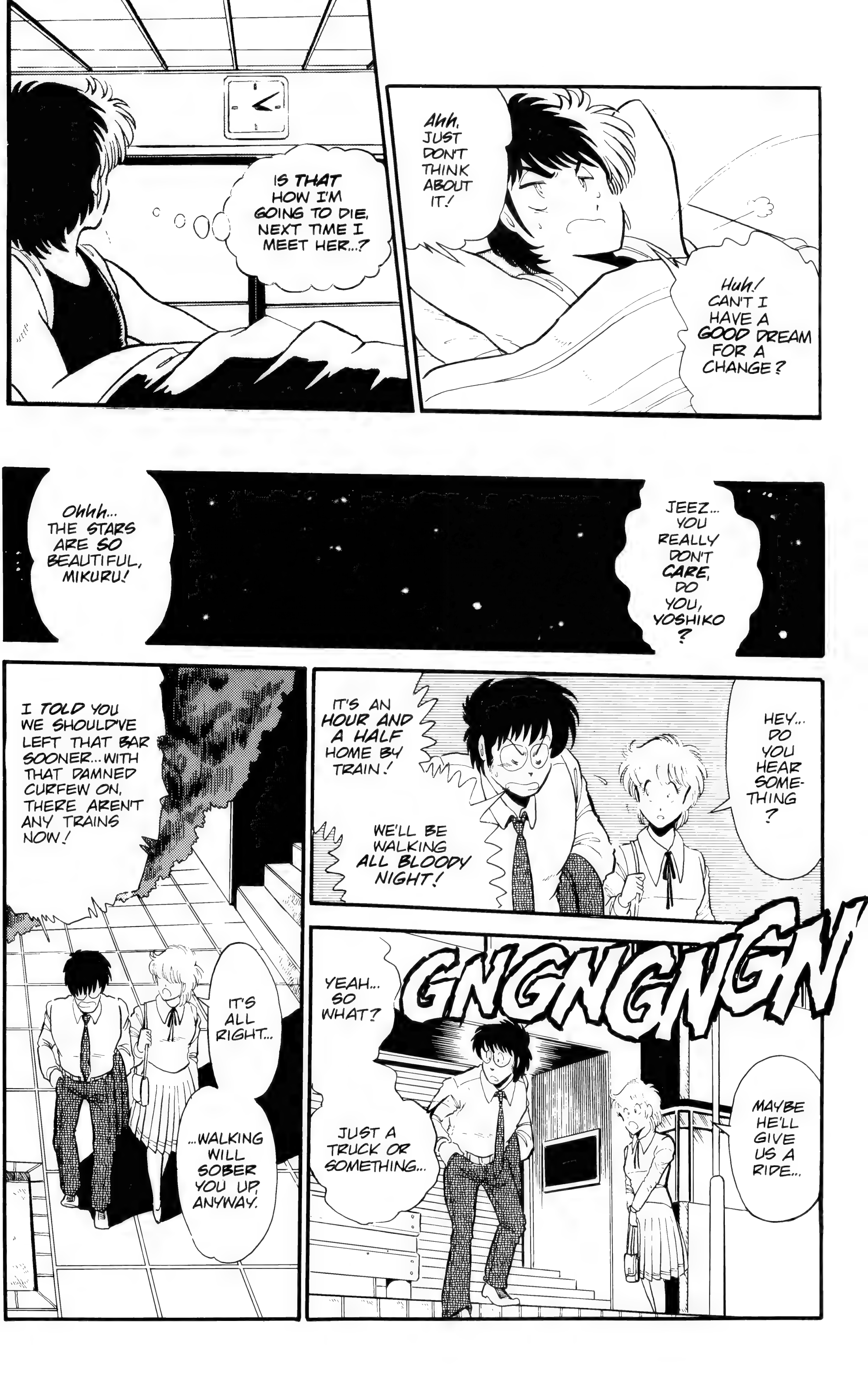

"HAD YOU BUT **SEEN** THE FURY OF HIS MAJESTY WHEN HE HEARD IT WAS INFESTED WITH THOSE VERMIN..."
"SO I **DO** UNDERSTAND.
BUT..."
...BUT **THIS** IS A DIFFERENT MATTER, PROGRESSO!
DIFFERENT? IN WHAT WAY?
I AM ACTING ON THE **DIRECT** ORDERS OF THE EMPEROR-- "BRING BACK THE PRINCESS!"
OR WOULD YOU **RATHER** TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALLOWING HER TO STOW AWAY ON YOUR SHIP...?!
NGG...
VERY WELL, THEN.
I GIVE MY PERMISSION, JUST THIS ONCE.
BUT YOU **MUST NOT** SCAR THE **SACRED PLANET** ITSELF...!

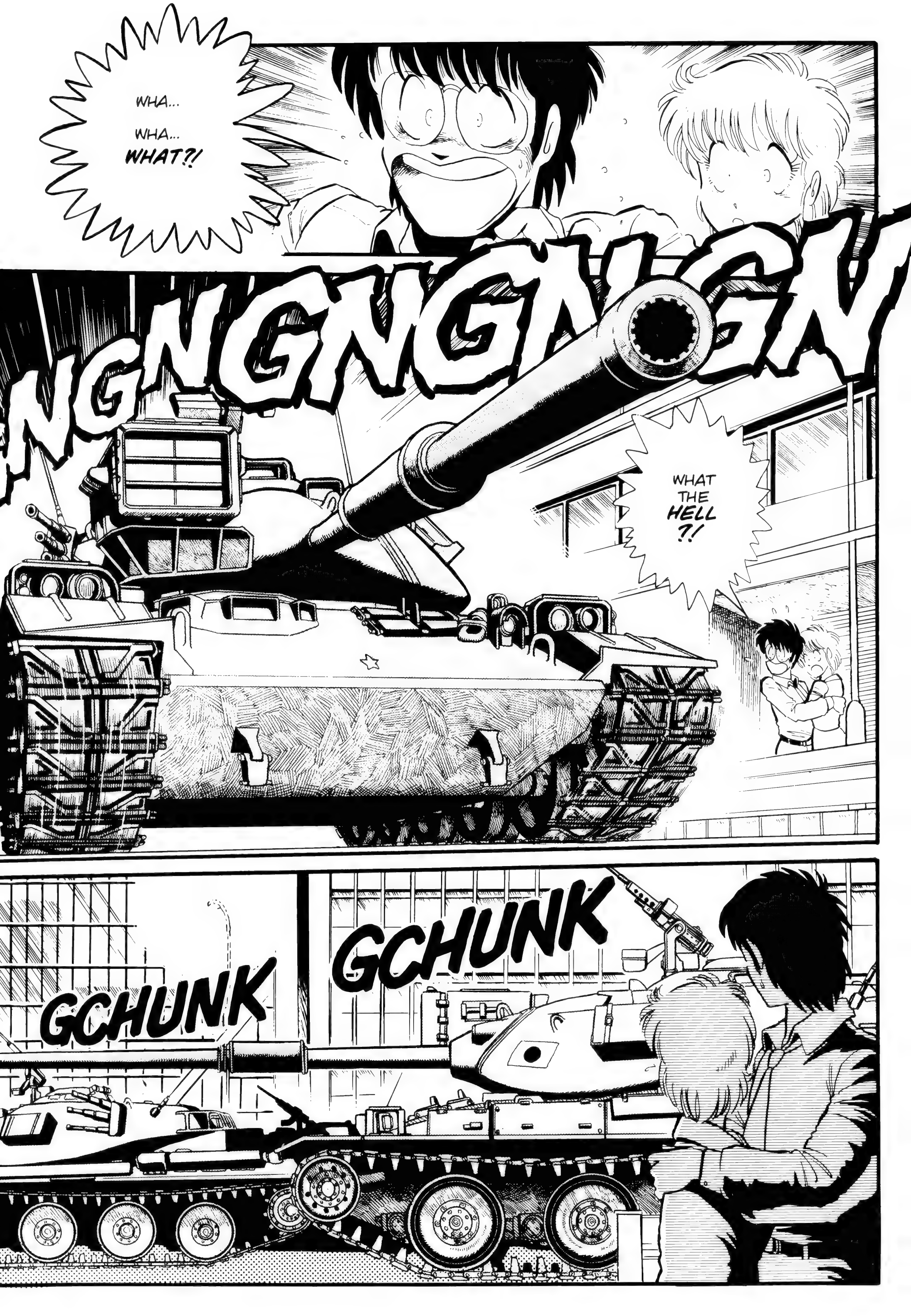

COME NOW... THEY'RE HARDLY STRONG ENOUGH TO FORCE US TO RESORT TO *THAT!*
ENOUGH OF THIS. YOU'RE SURE OF THE PLACE WHERE THE PRINCESS FIRST LANDED?
YES. AND I'M CERTAIN SHE WENT TO THE SAME ISLAND *THIS* TIME, AS WELL.
THAT'S WHERE SHE SENT THE MEGATRON.
EXCELLENT.
YOU MAY CONTINUE YOUR SEARCH FROM ORBIT.
YOU PRESUMPTUOUS LITTLE UPSTART...
TAKE US DOWN!

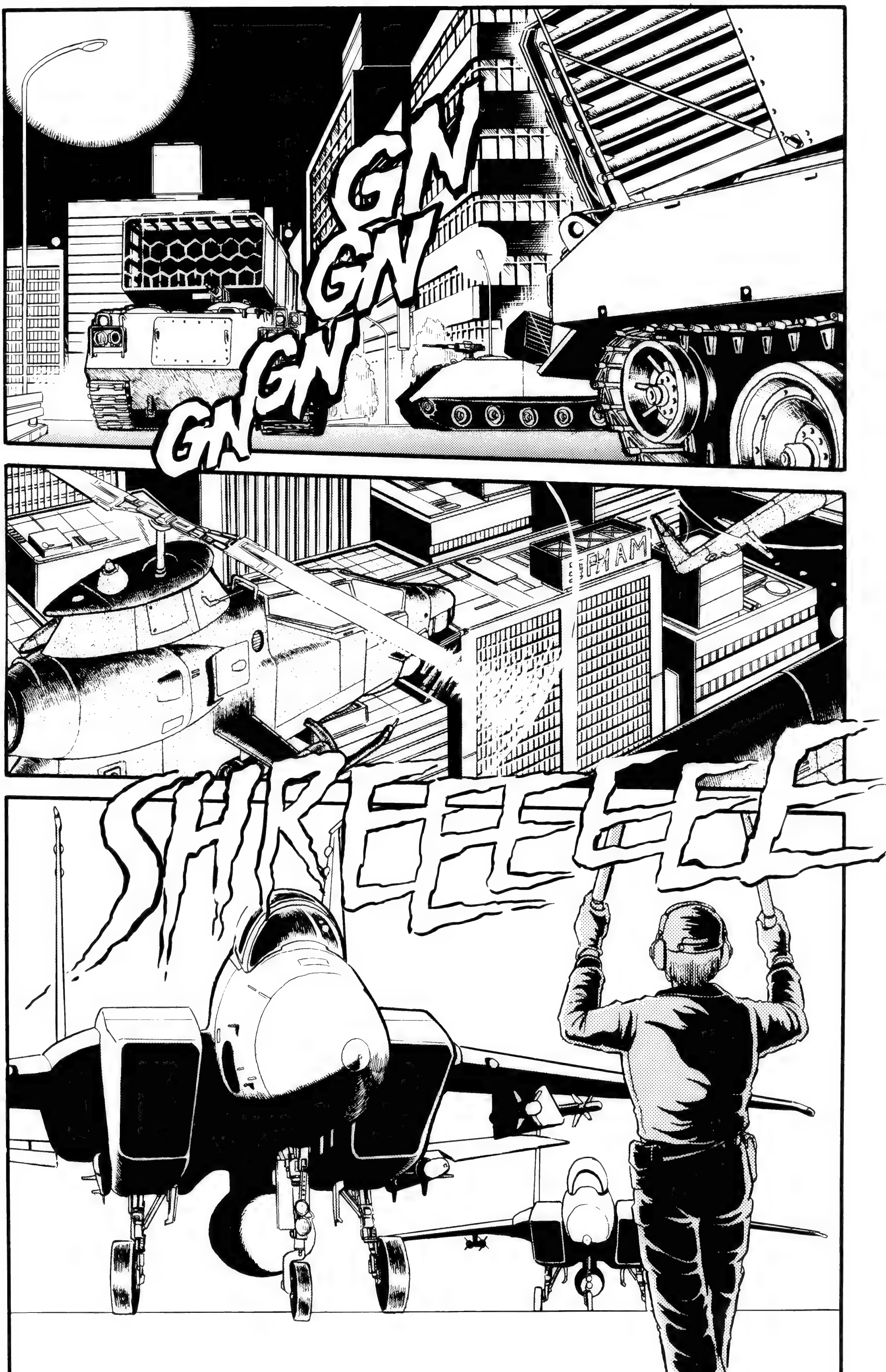

SKRASSSH
!!

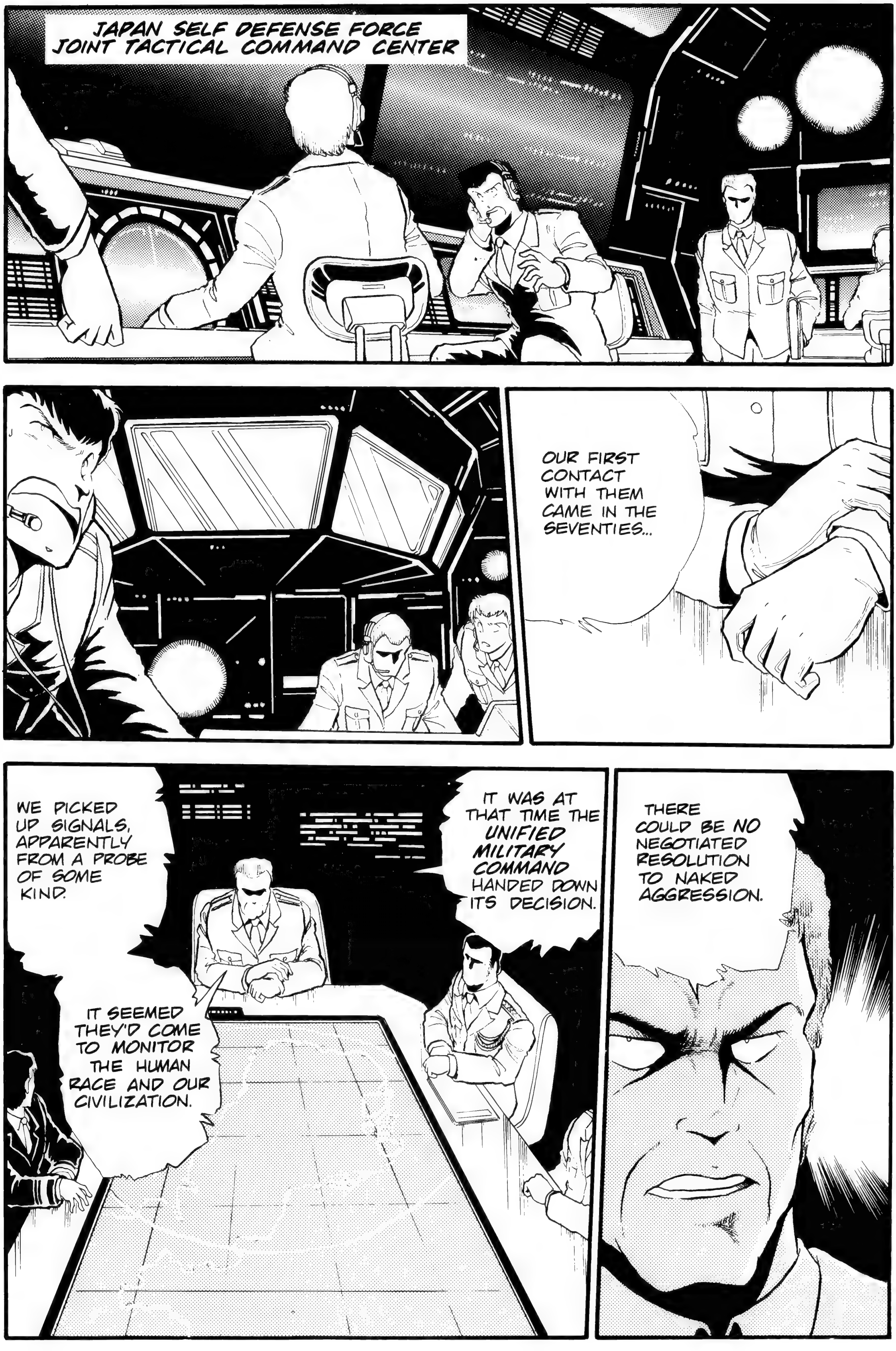

W-WAIT!
JUST WAIT A SEC!
I... I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT...
HERE-- I'LL GIVE IT BACK.
.....
VWSSH
FWMP
GYAAA!

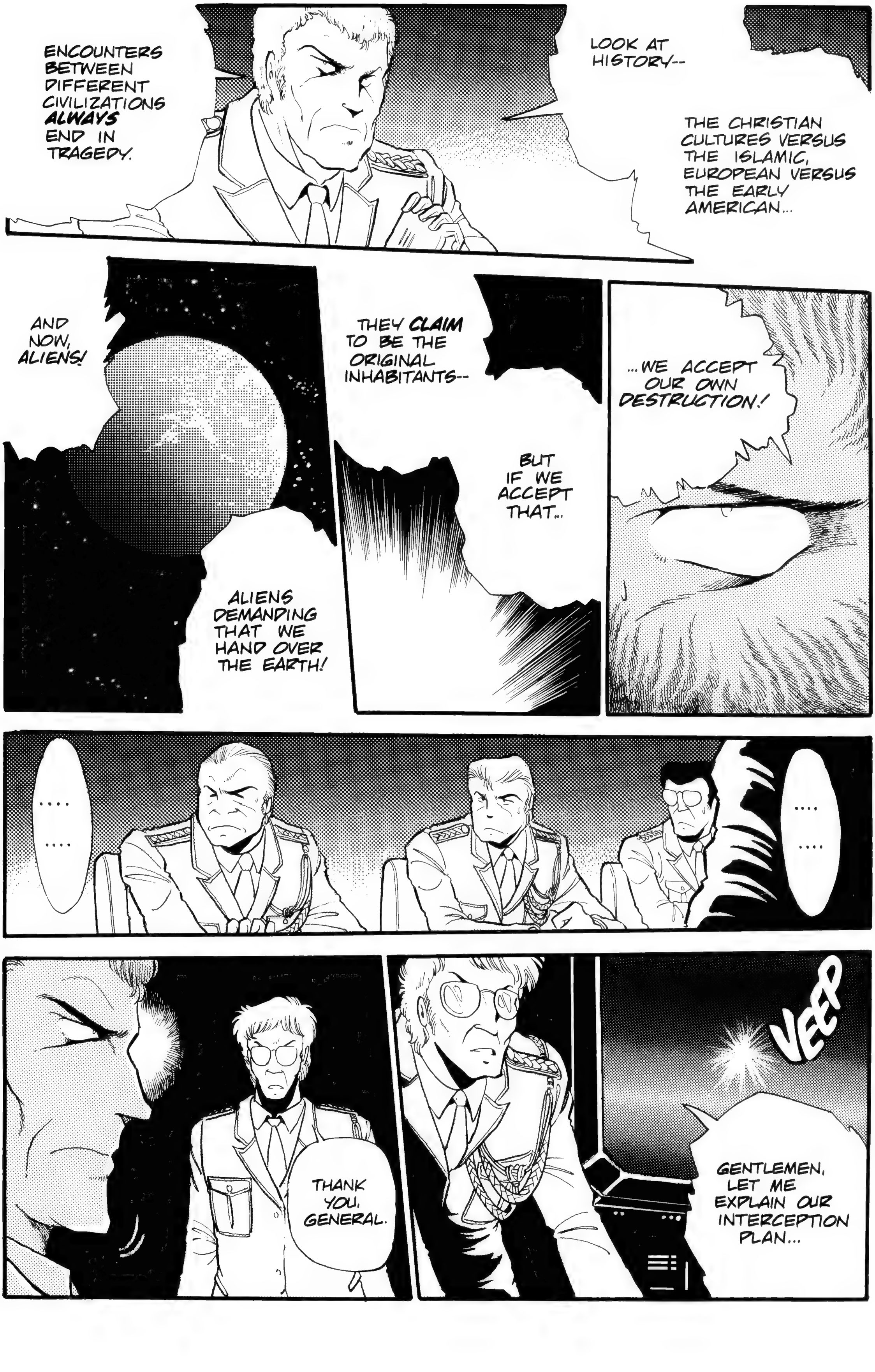

CHOK
EYAAA!
AAA!
AAA!
GYAAA!!
WON'T THESE DREAMS EVER STOP? DAMN IT...
hahh
hahh
hahh
hahh

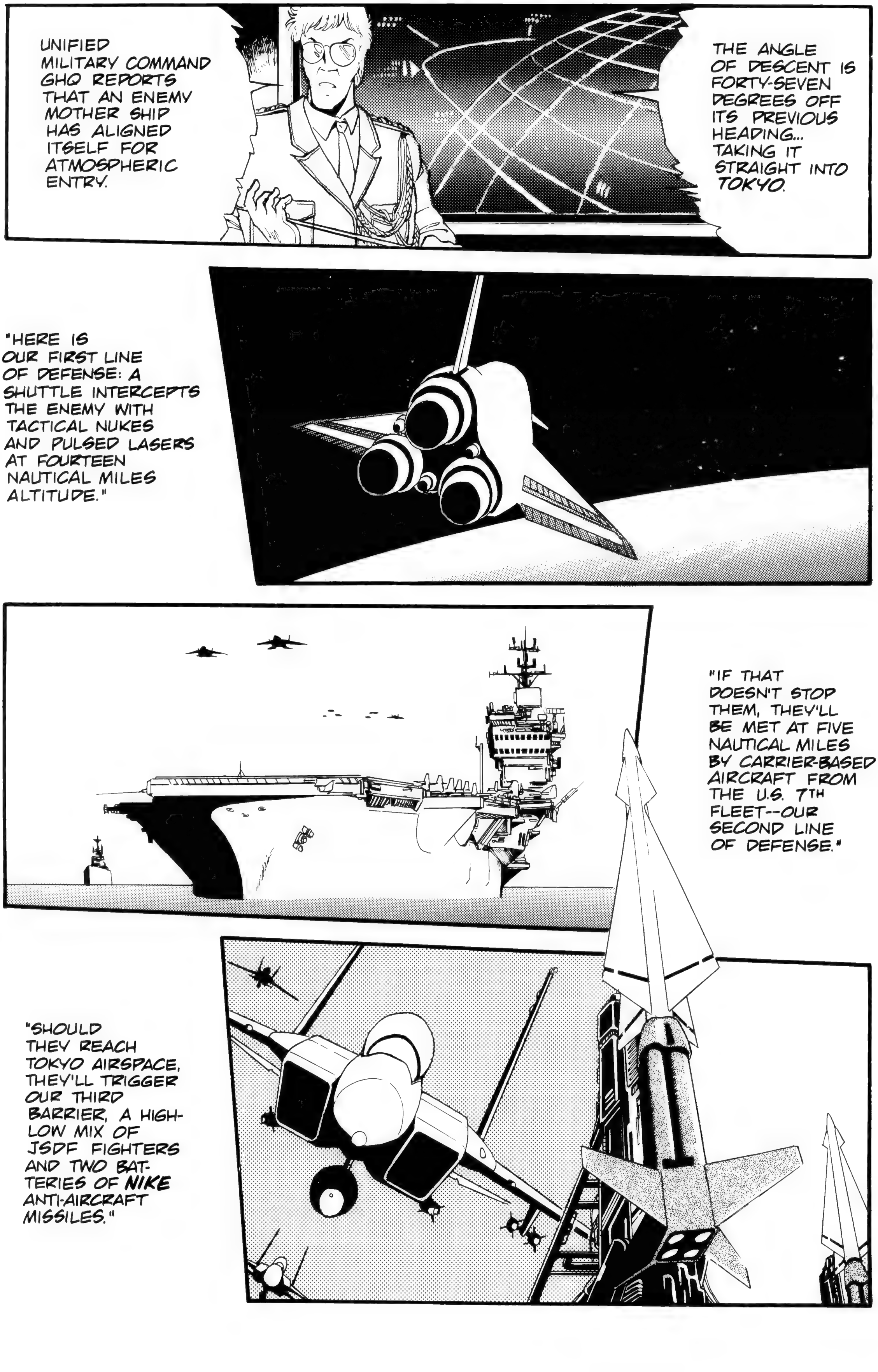

IS THAT HOW I'M GOING TO DIE, NEXT TIME I MEET HER...?
Ahh, JUST DON'T THINK ABOUT IT!
Huh! CAN'T I HAVE A GOOD DREAM FOR A CHANGE?
Ohhh... THE STARS ARE SO BEAUTIFUL, MIKURU!
JEEZ... YOU REALLY DON'T CARE, DO YOU, YOSHIKO?
I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD'VE LEFT THAT BAR SOONER... WITH THAT DAMNED CURFEW ON, THERE AREN'T ANY TRAINS NOW!
IT'S ALL RIGHT...
...WALKING WILL SOBER YOU UP, ANYWAY.
IT'S AN HOUR AND A HALF HOME BY TRAIN!
WE'LL BE WALKING ALL BLOODY NIGHT!
HEY... DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
YEAH... SO WHAT?
GNGNGNGN
JUST A TRUCK OR SOMETHING...
MAYBE HE'LL GIVE US A RIDE...

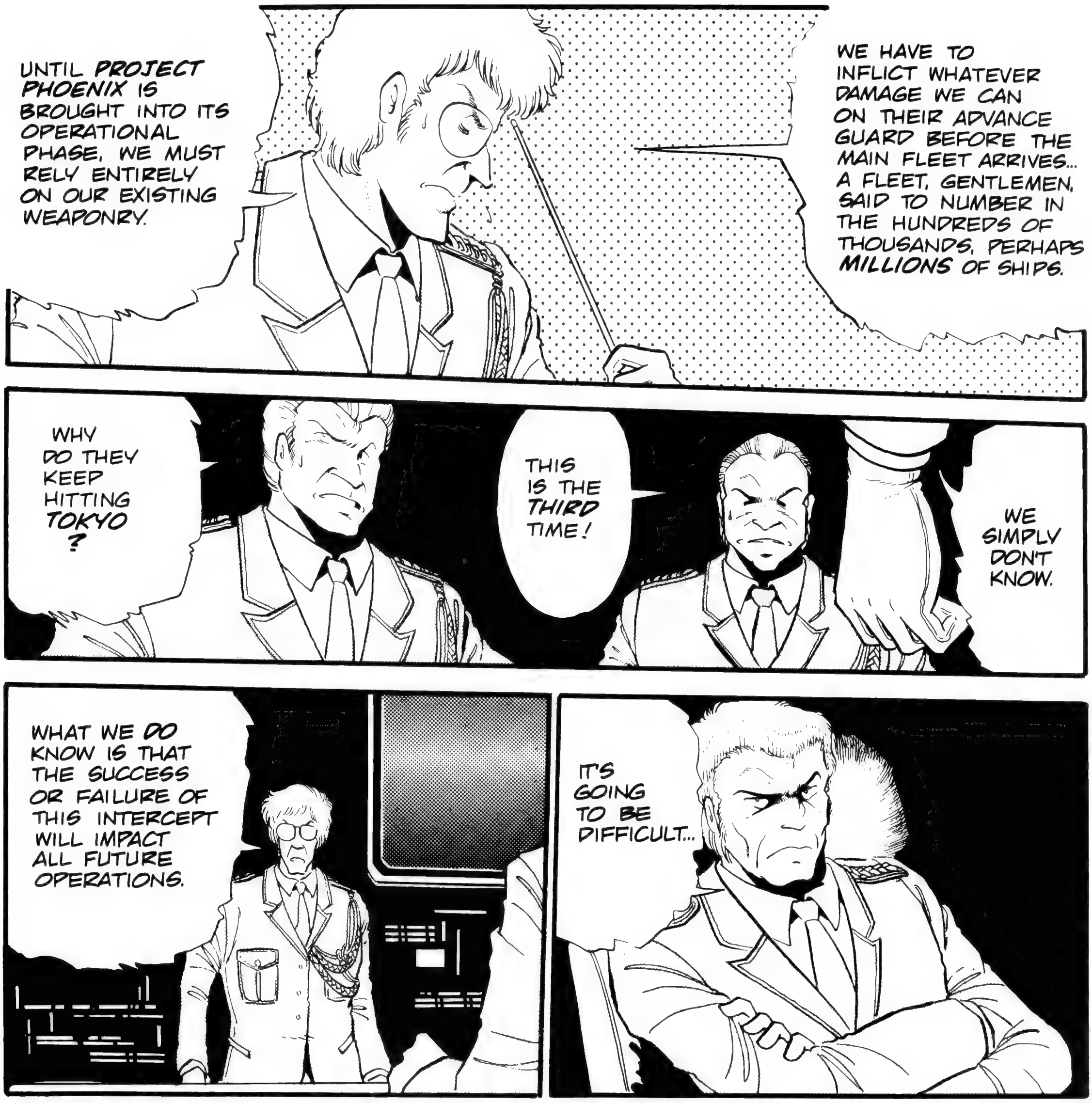

WHA...
WHA...
WHAT?!
NGNGNGNGNGN
WHAT THE HELL?!
GCHUNK
GCHUNK

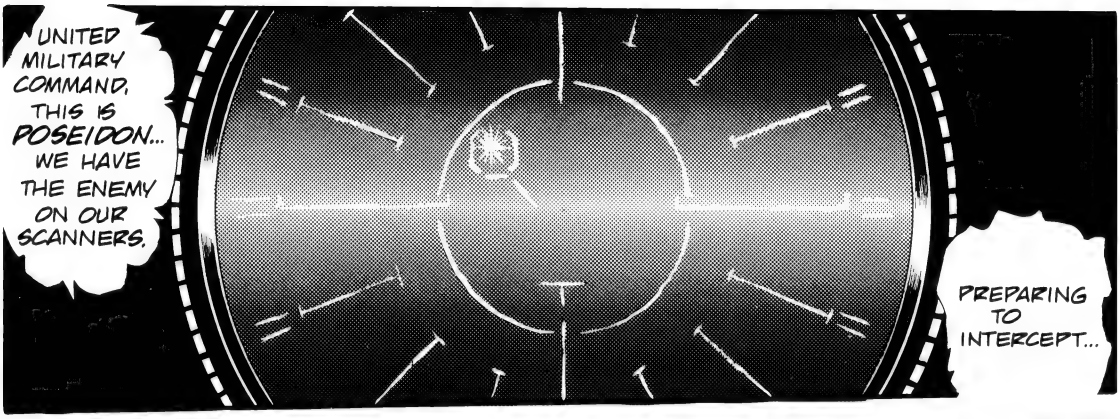

GN
GN
GN
GN
SHREEEEEE

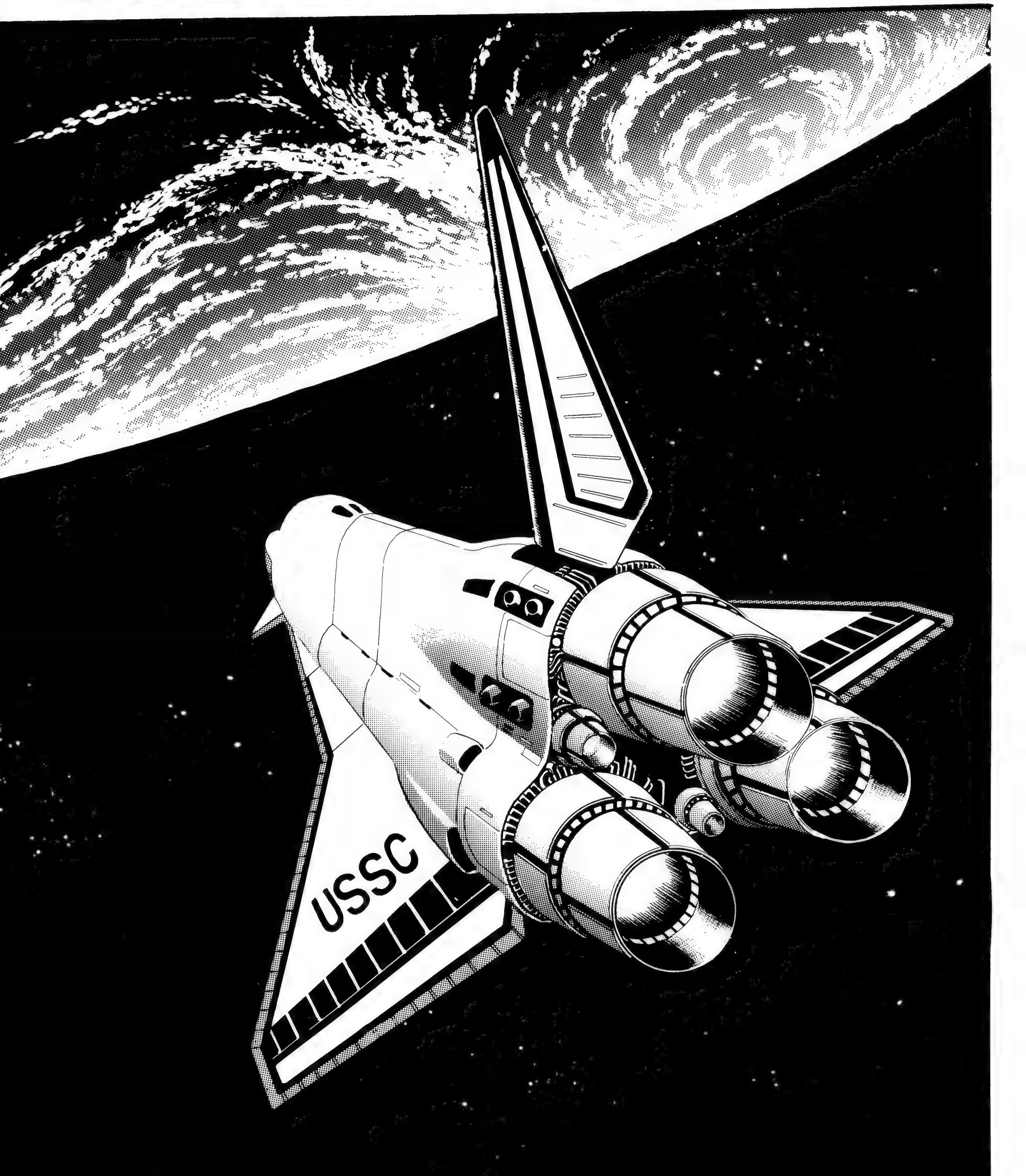

JAPAN SELF DEFENSE FORCE JOINT TACTICAL COMMAND CENTER
OUR FIRST CONTACT WITH THEM CAME IN THE SEVENTIES...
WE PICKED UP SIGNALS, APPARENTLY FROM A PROBE OF SOME KIND.
IT WAS AT THAT TIME THE *UNIFIED MILITARY COMMAND* HANDED DOWN ITS DECISION.
IT SEEMED THEY'D COME TO MONITOR THE HUMAN RACE AND OUR CIVILIZATION.
THERE COULD BE NO NEGOTIATED RESOLUTION TO NAKED AGGRESSION.

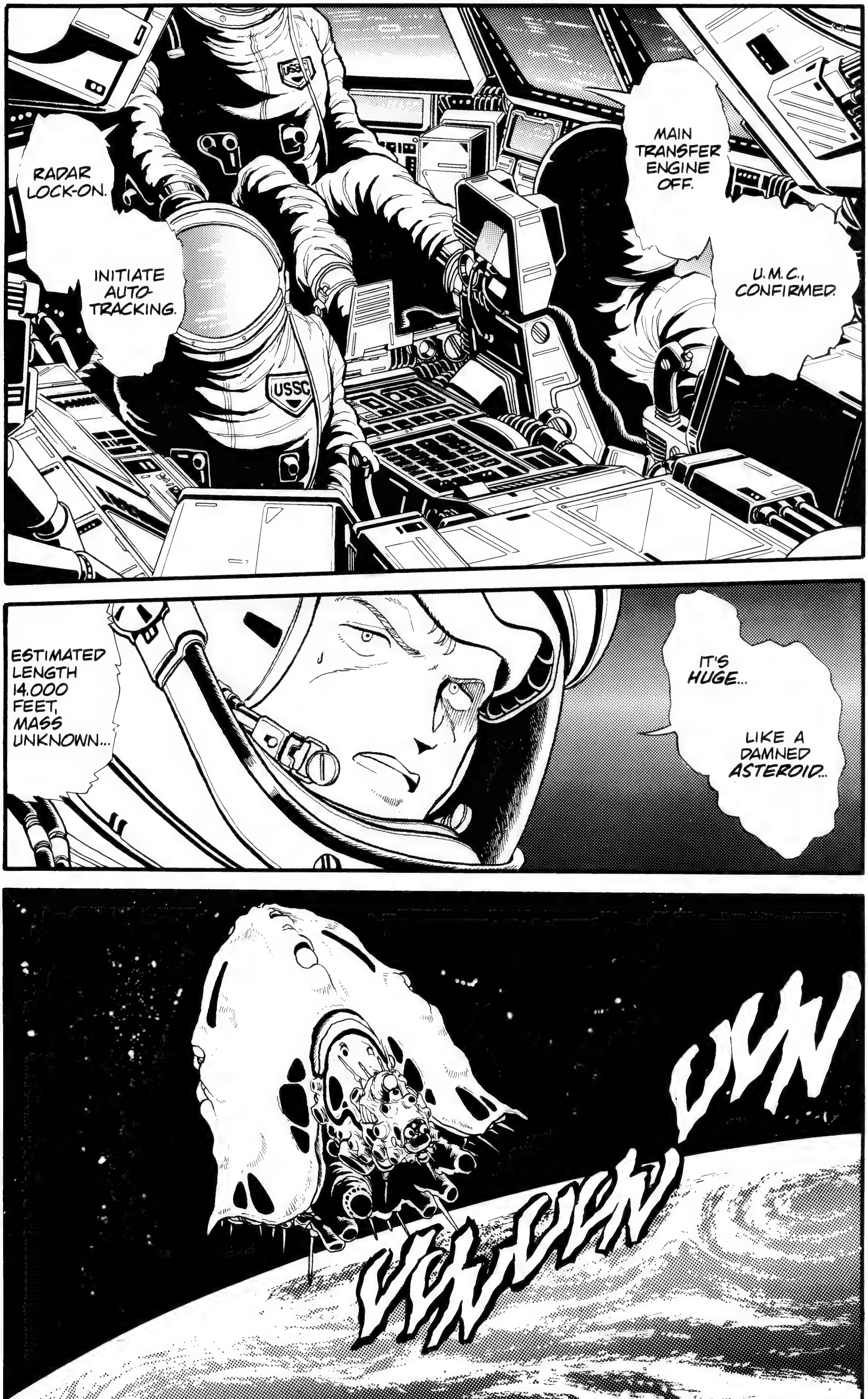

ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN DIFFERENT CIVILIZATIONS **ALWAYS** END IN TRAGEDY.
LOOK AT HISTORY--
THE CHRISTIAN CULTURES VERSUS THE ISLAMIC, EUROPEAN VERSUS THE EARLY AMERICAN...
AND NOW, **ALIENS!**
ALIENS DEMANDING THAT WE HAND OVER THE EARTH!
THEY **CLAIM** TO BE THE ORIGINAL INHABITANTS--
BUT IF WE ACCEPT THAT...
...WE ACCEPT OUR OWN **DESTRUCTION!**
....
....
....
....
THANK YOU, GENERAL.
VEEP
GENTLEMEN, LET ME EXPLAIN OUR INTERCEPTION PLAN...

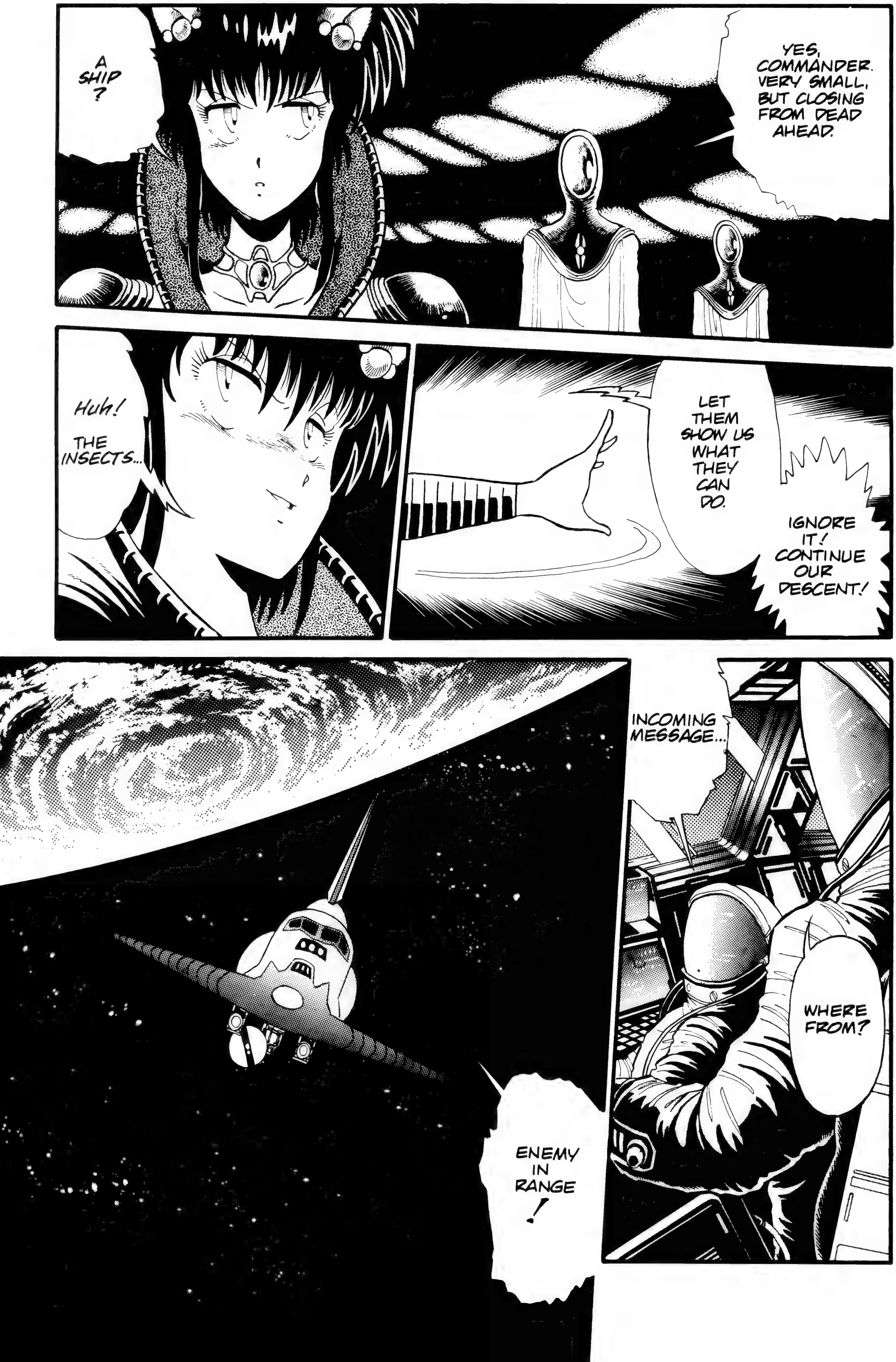

UNIFIED MILITARY COMMAND GHQ REPORTS THAT AN ENEMY MOTHER SHIP HAS ALIGNED ITSELF FOR ATMOSPHERIC ENTRY.
THE ANGLE OF DESCENT IS FORTY-SEVEN DEGREES OFF ITS PREVIOUS HEADING... TAKING IT STRAIGHT INTO *TOKYO*.
"HERE IS OUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE: A SHUTTLE INTERCEPTS THE ENEMY WITH TACTICAL NUKES AND PULSED LASERS AT FOURTEEN NAUTICAL MILES ALTITUDE."
"IF THAT DOESN'T STOP THEM, THEY'LL BE MET AT FIVE NAUTICAL MILES BY CARRIER-BASED AIRCRAFT FROM THE U.S. 7TH FLEET--OUR SECOND LINE OF DEFENSE."
"SHOULD THEY REACH TOKYO AIRSPACE, THEY'LL TRIGGER OUR THIRD BARRIER, A HIGH-LOW MIX OF JSDF FIGHTERS AND TWO BATTERIES OF **NIKE** ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES."

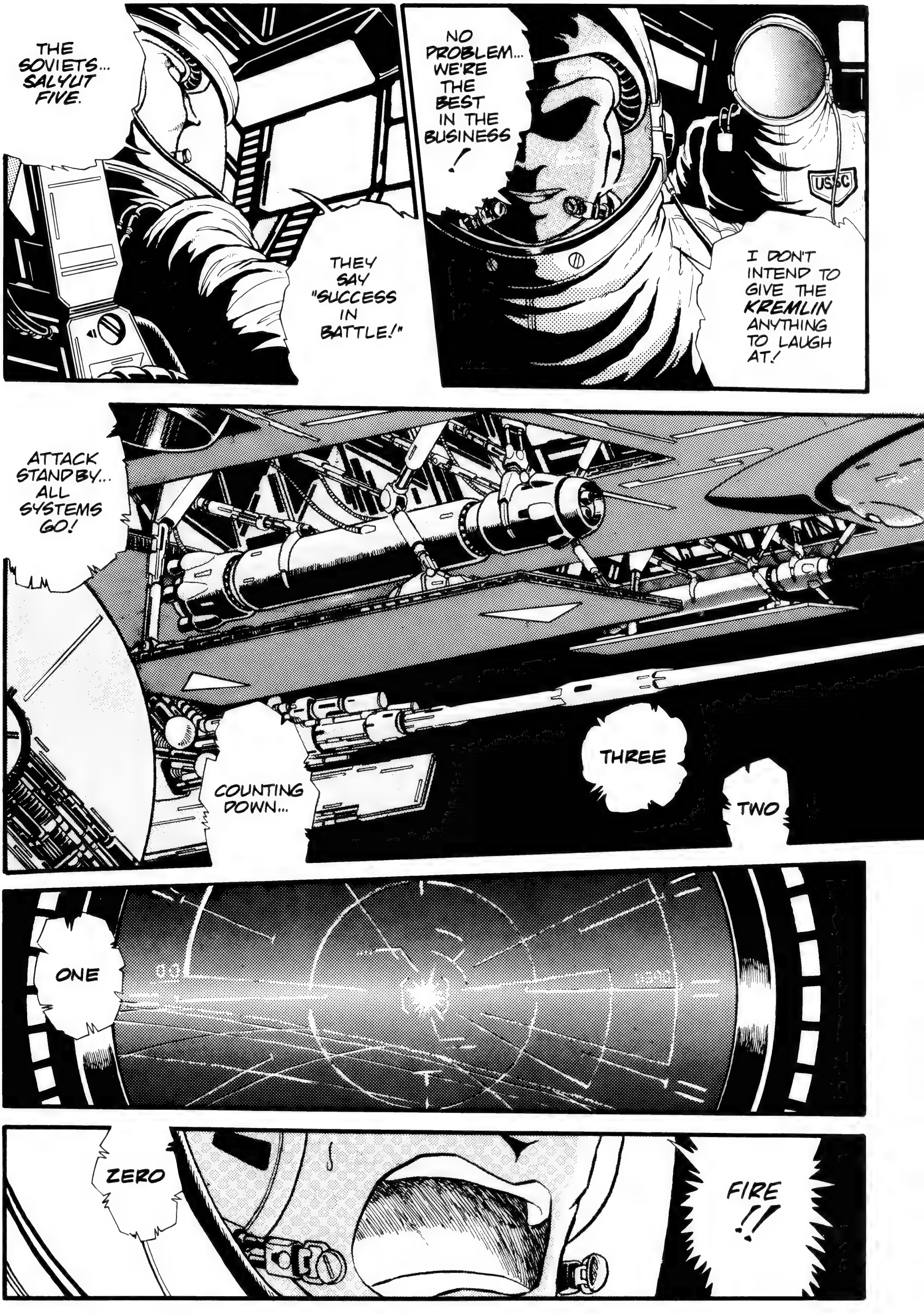

UNTIL ***PROJECT PHOENIX*** IS BROUGHT INTO ITS OPERATIONAL PHASE, WE MUST RELY ENTIRELY ON OUR EXISTING WEAPONRY.
WE HAVE TO INFLICT WHATEVER DAMAGE WE CAN ON THEIR ADVANCE GUARD BEFORE THE MAIN FLEET ARRIVES... A FLEET, GENTLEMEN, SAID TO NUMBER IN THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS, PERHAPS ***MILLIONS*** OF SHIPS.
WHY DO THEY KEEP HITTING ***TOKYO*** ?
THIS IS THE ***THIRD*** TIME!
WE SIMPLY DON'T KNOW.
WHAT WE ***DO*** KNOW IS THAT THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF THIS INTERCEPT WILL IMPACT ALL FUTURE OPERATIONS.
IT'S GOING TO BE DIFFICULT...
THEIR APPROACH TO TECHNOLOGY AND WEAPONRY IS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM OURS...
BIOMECHANICS, GENTLEMEN-- THEIR MACHINES AND WEAPONS ARE ***ALIVE!***

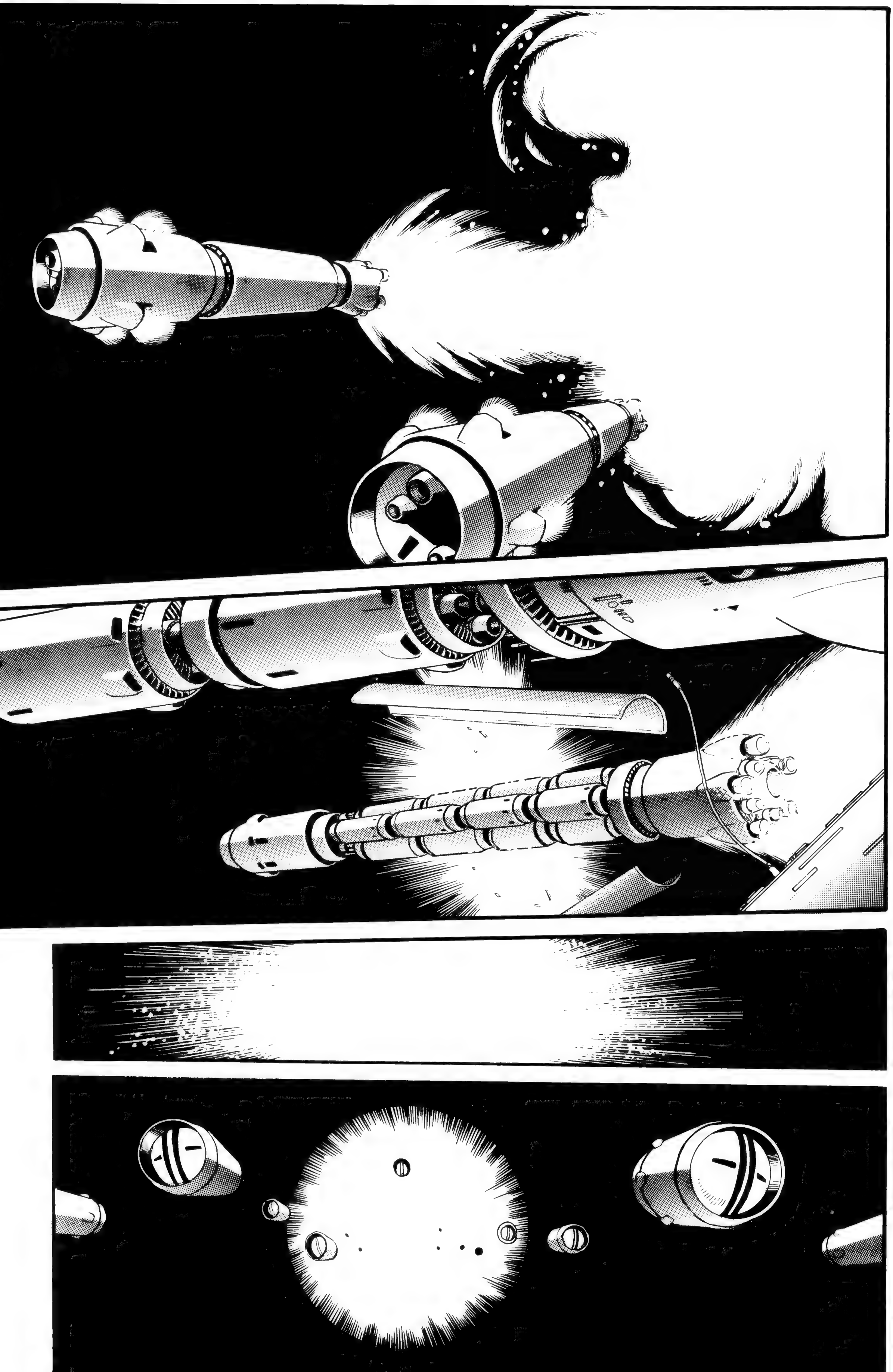

UNITED MILITARY COMMAND, THIS IS **POSEIDON**... WE HAVE THE ENEMY ON OUR SCANNERS.
PREPARING TO INTERCEPT...

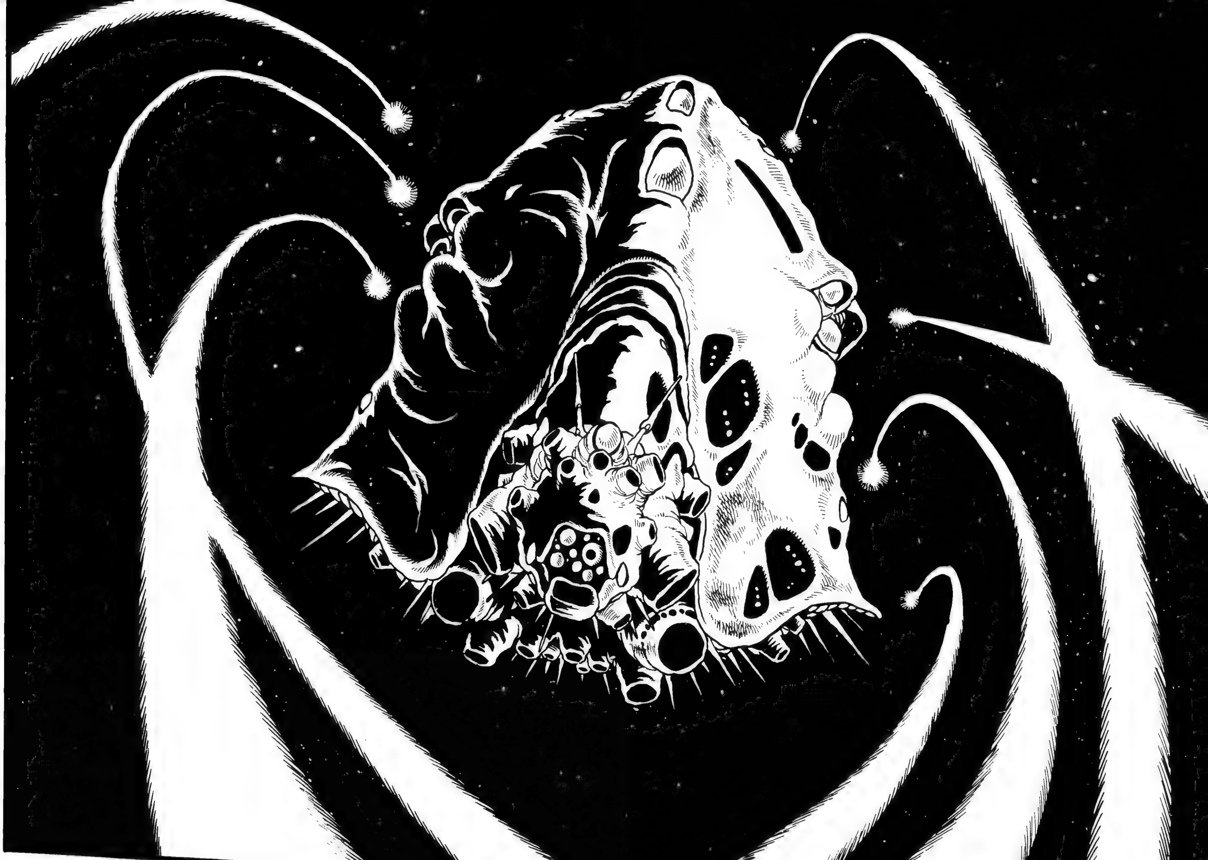

USSC

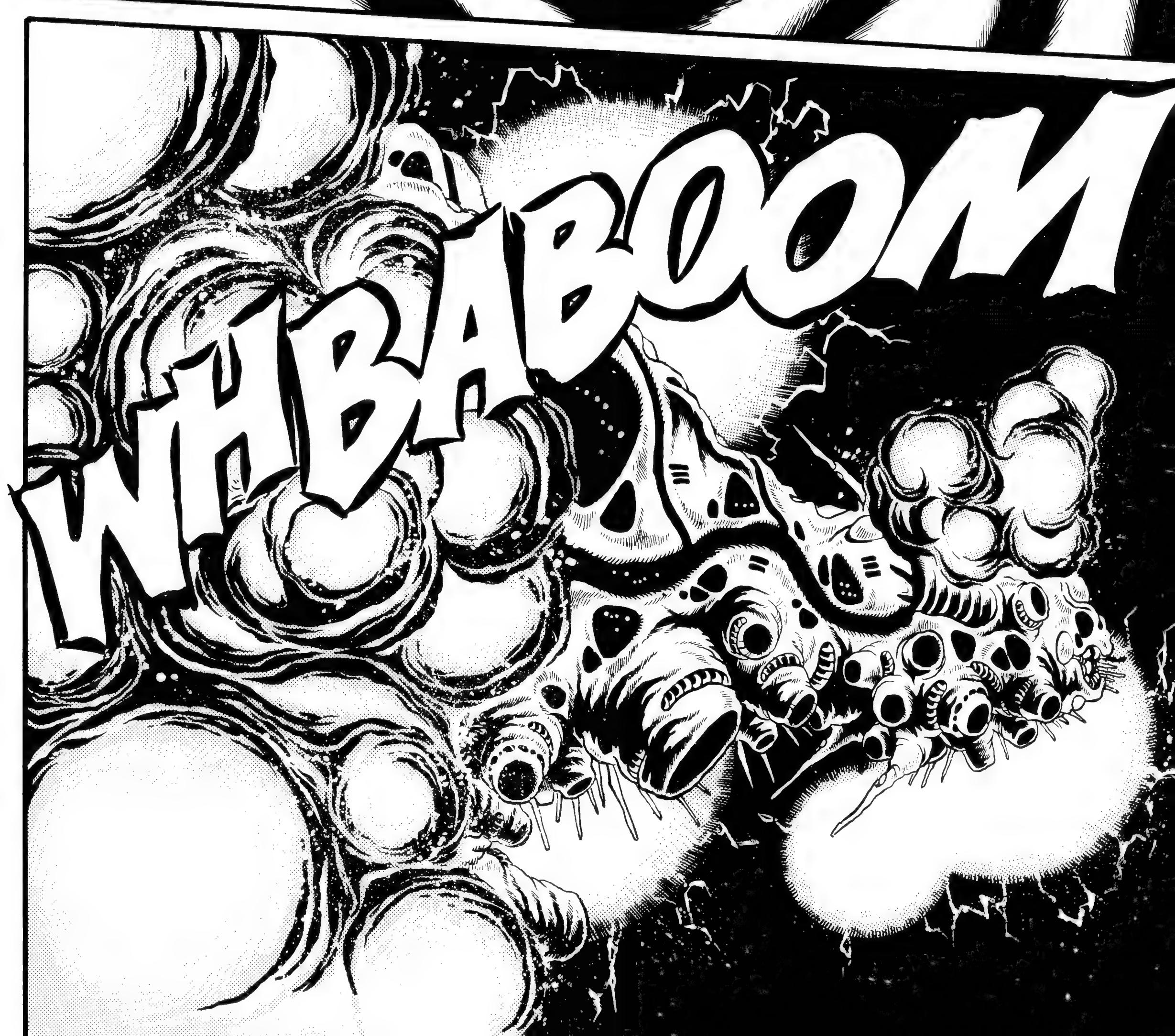

USSC
RADAR LOCK-ON.
INITIATE AUTO-TRACKING.
USSC
MAIN TRANSFER ENGINE OFF.
U.M.C., CONFIRMED.
ESTIMATED LENGTH 14,000 FEET, MASS UNKNOWN...
IT'S HUGE...
LIKE A DAMNED *ASTEROID*...

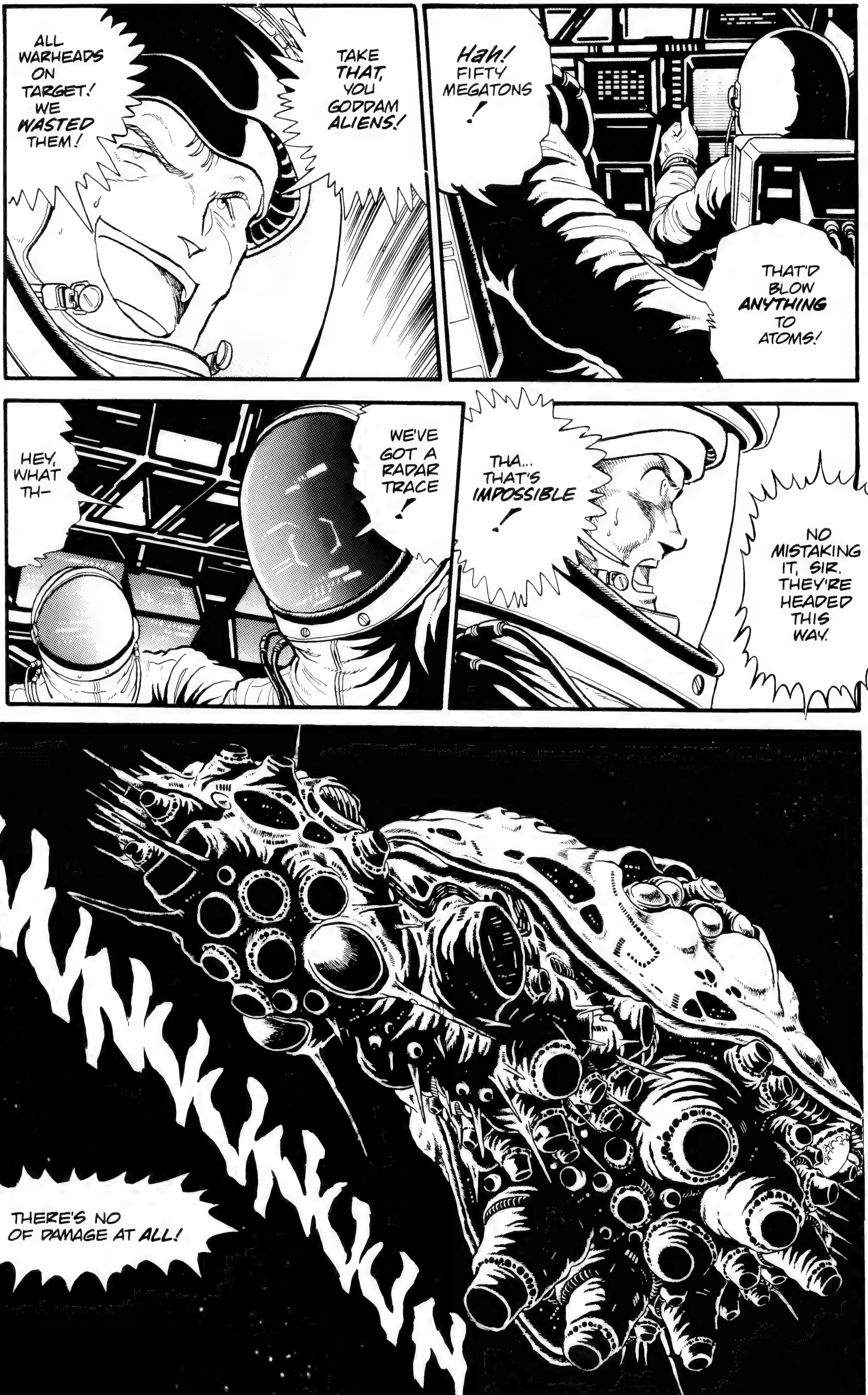

A SHIP?
YES, COMMANDER. VERY SMALL, BUT CLOSING FROM DEAD AHEAD.
Huh! THE INSECTS...
LET THEM SHOW US WHAT THEY CAN DO.
IGNORE IT! CONTINUE OUR DESCENT!
ENEMY IN RANGE!
INCOMING MESSAGE...
WHERE FROM?

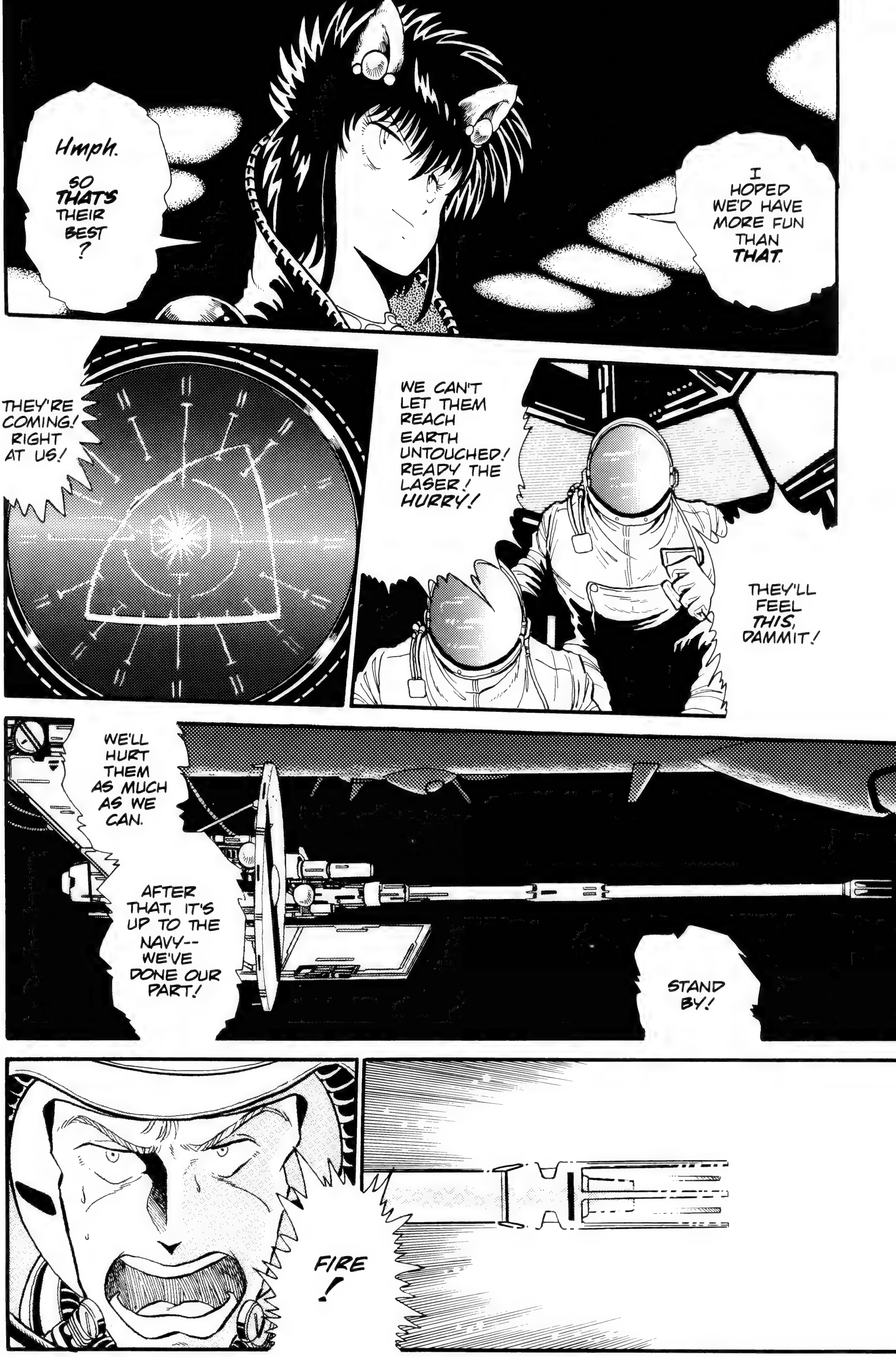

THE SOVIETS... SALYUT FIVE.
THEY SAY "SUCCESS IN BATTLE!"
NO PROBLEM... WE'RE THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS!
I DON'T INTEND TO GIVE THE KREMLIN ANYTHING TO LAUGH AT!
USSC
ATTACK STANDBY... ALL SYSTEMS GO!
COUNTING DOWN...
THREE
TWO
ONE
ZERO
FIRE!!

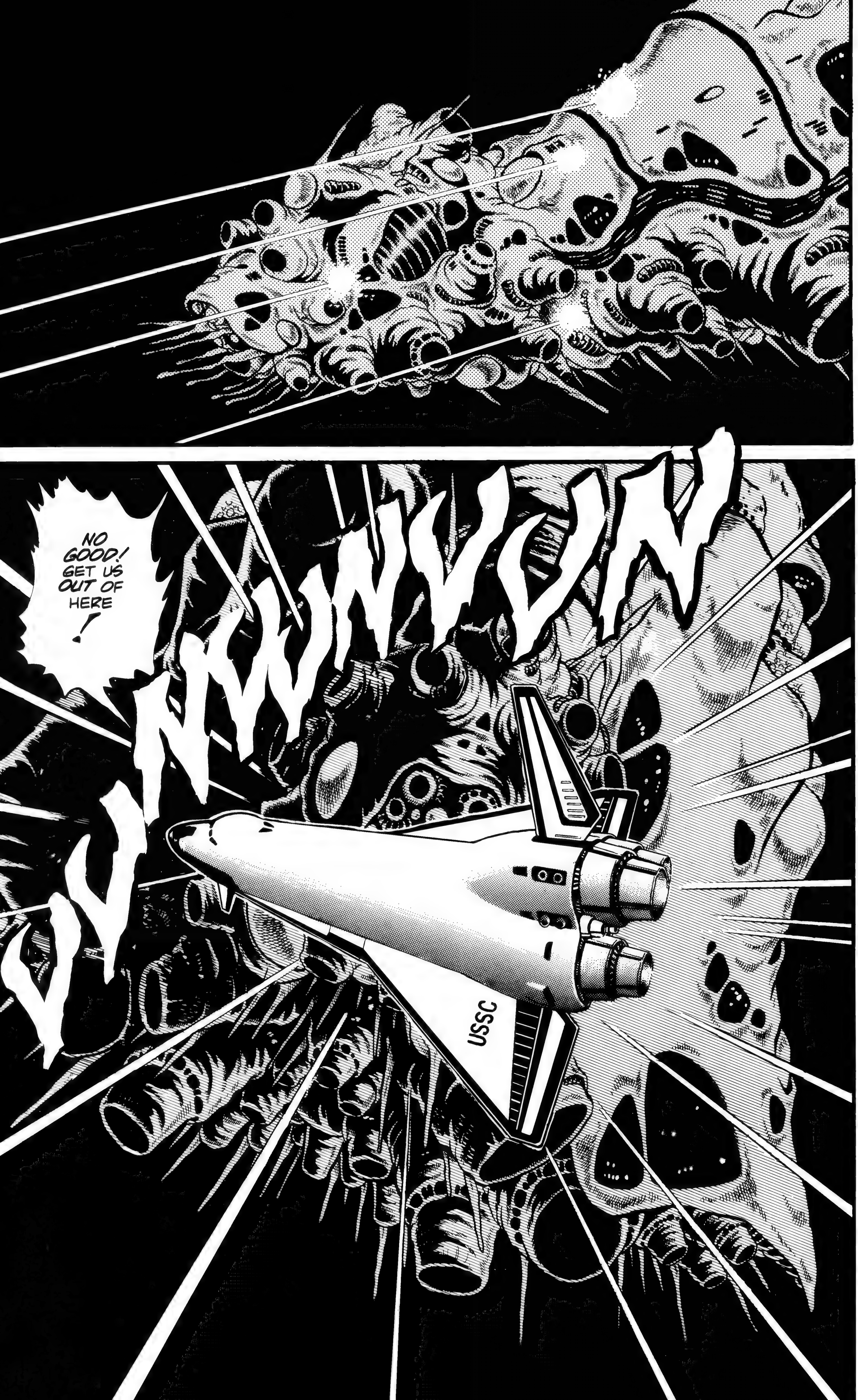


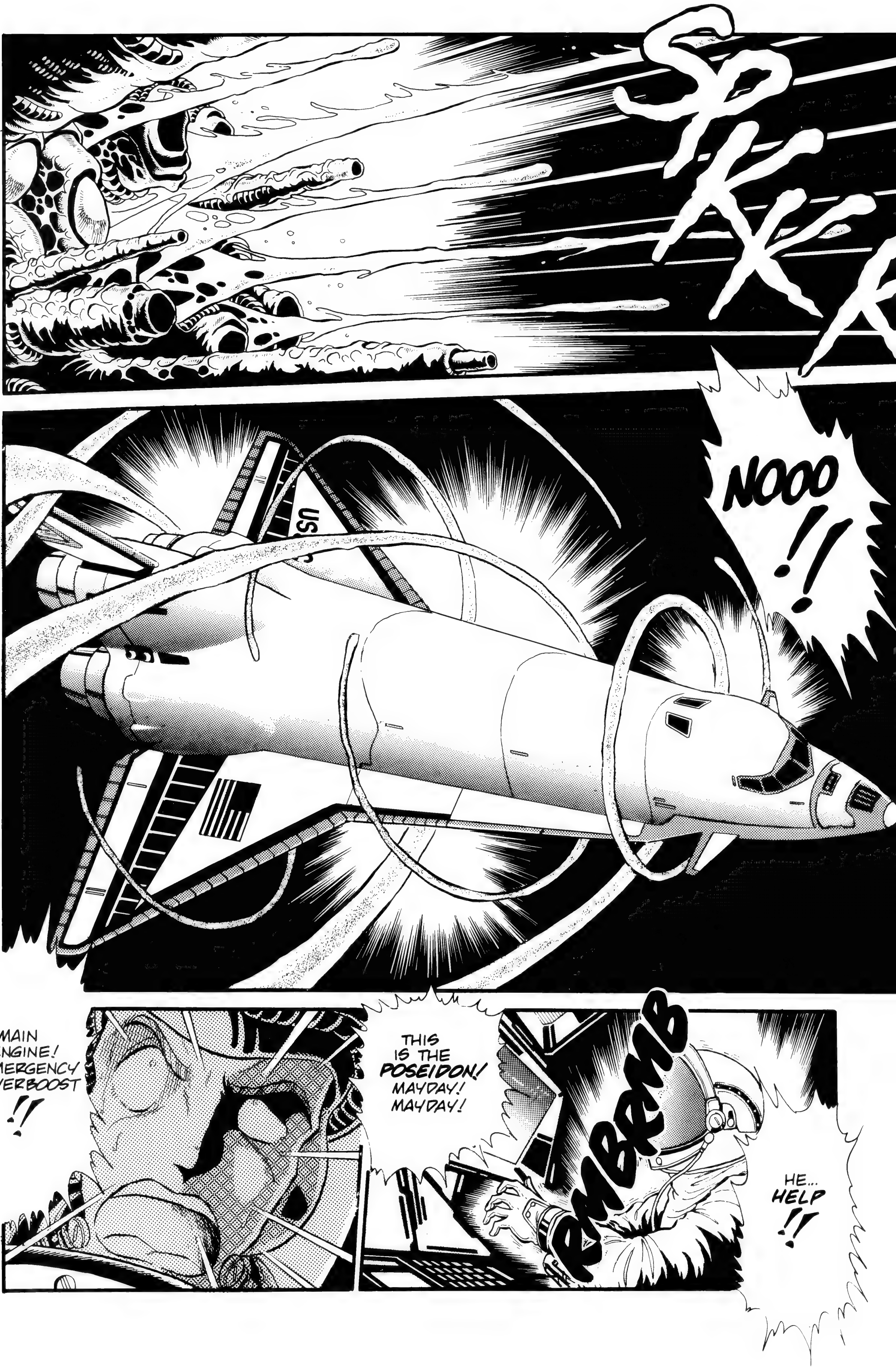


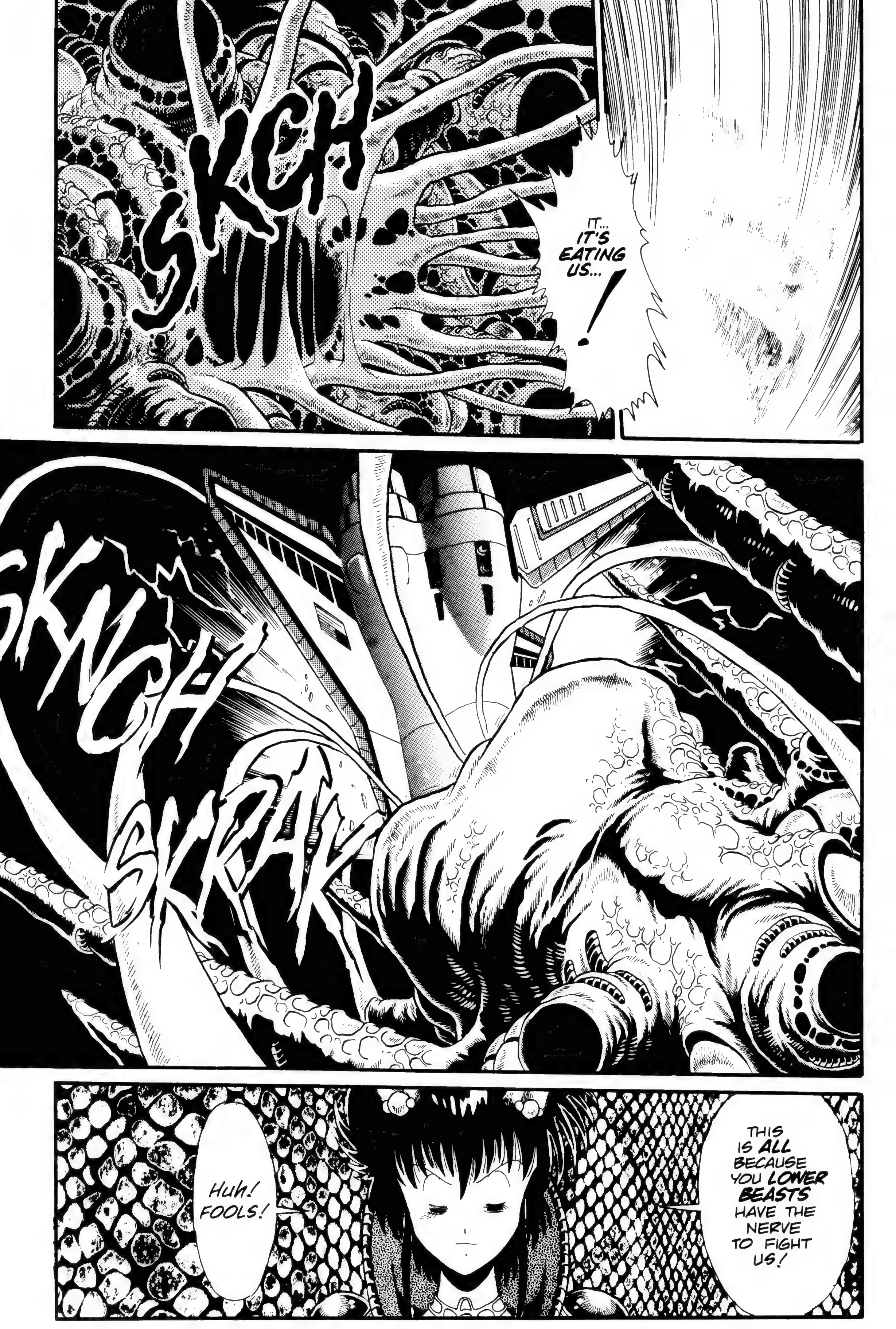

WHBABOOM

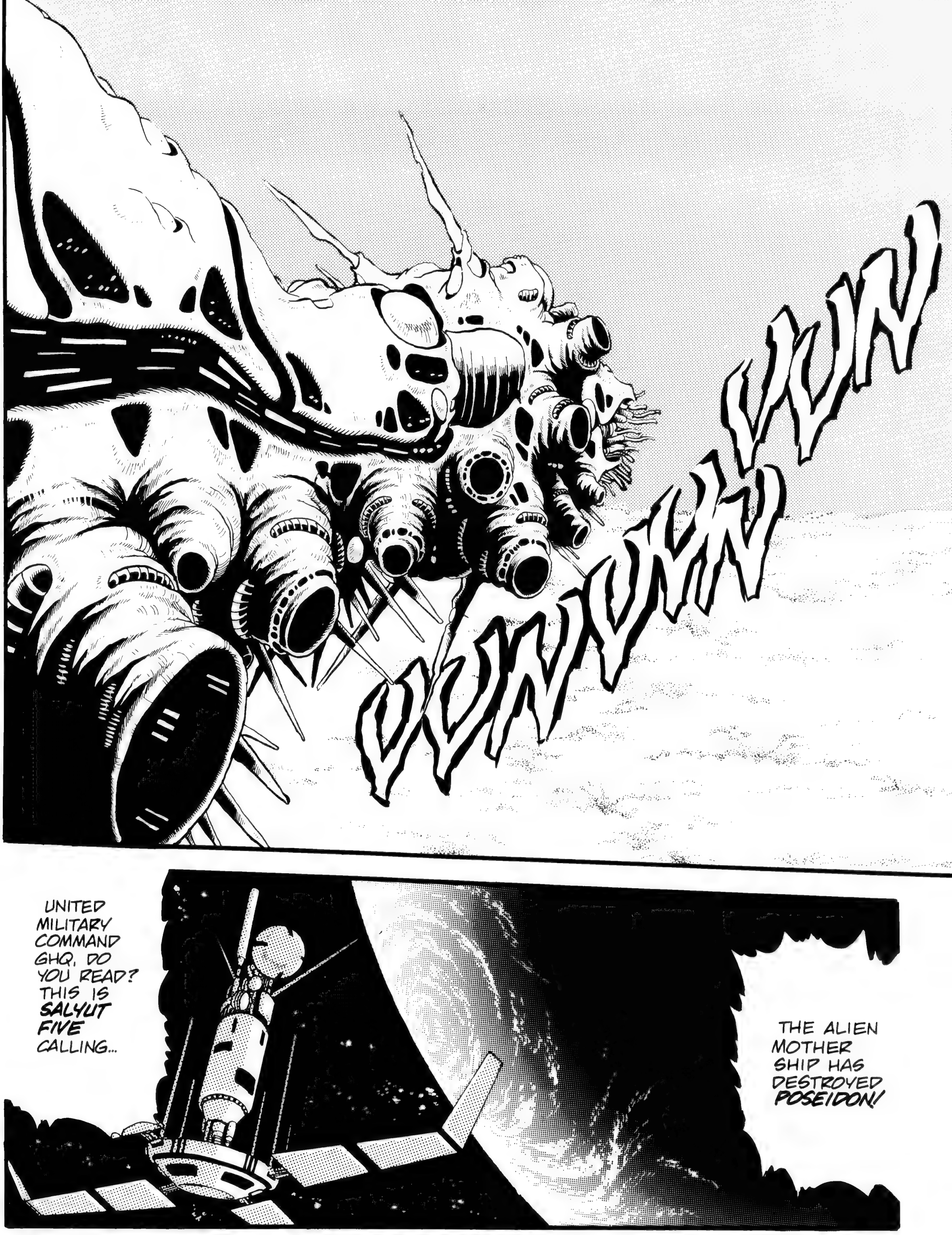

ALL WARHEADS ON TARGET! WE WASTED THEM!
TAKE THAT, YOU GODDAM ALIENS!
Hah! FIFTY MEGATONS!
THAT'D BLOW ANYTHING TO ATOMS!
HEY, WHAT TH-
WE'VE GOT A RADAR TRACE!
THA... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
NO MISTAKING IT, SIR. THEY'RE HEADED THIS WAY.
VUNVUNVUN
AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF DAMAGE AT ALL!

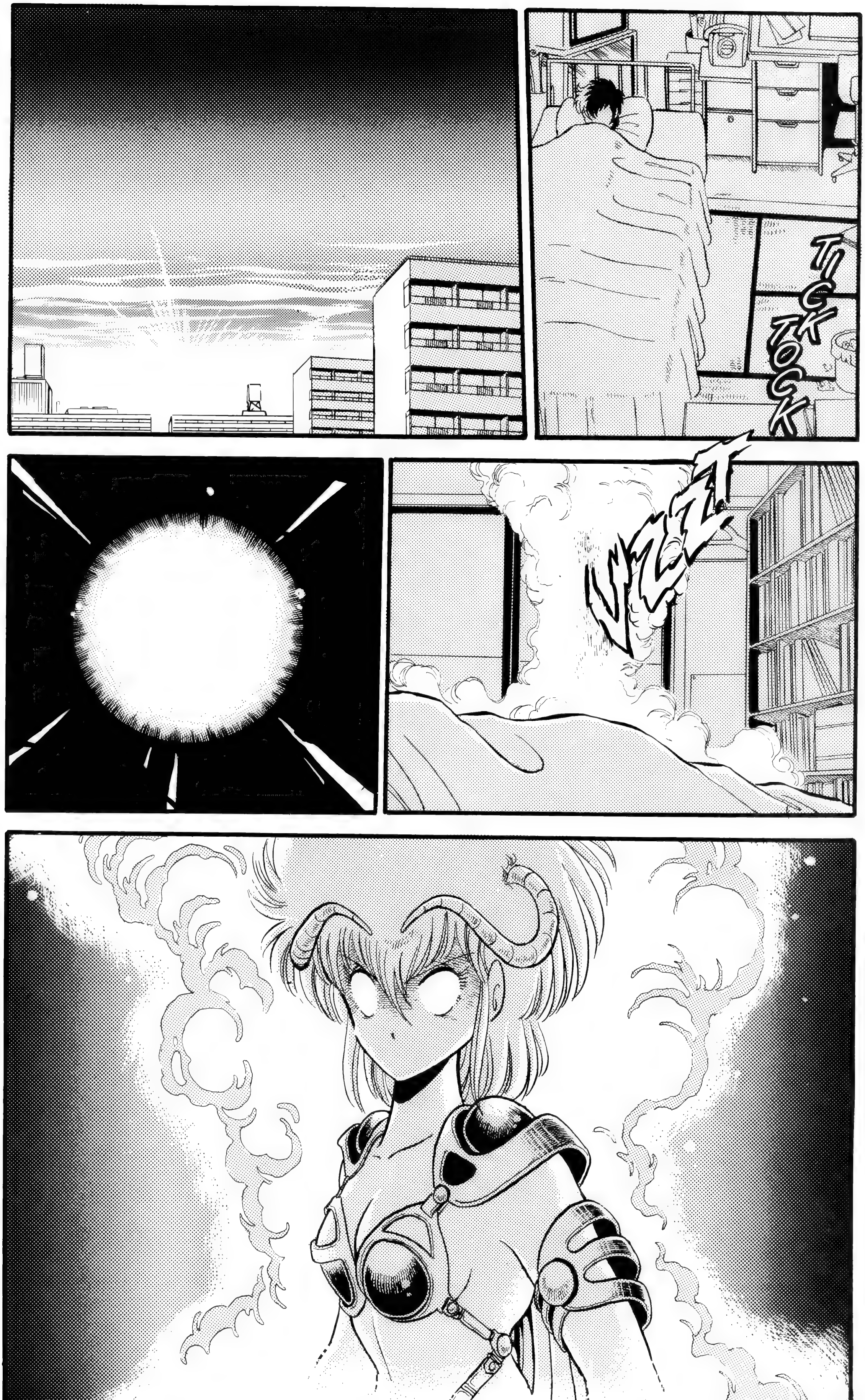

Hmph. SO THAT'S THEIR BEST?
I HOPED WE'D HAVE MORE FUN THAN THAT.
THEY'RE COMING! RIGHT AT US!
WE CAN'T LET THEM REACH EARTH UNTOUCHED! READY THE LASER! HURRY!
THEY'LL FEEL THIS, DAMMIT!
WE'LL HURT THEM AS MUCH AS WE CAN.
AFTER THAT, IT'S UP TO THE NAVY-- WE'VE DONE OUR PART!
STAND BY!
FIRE!

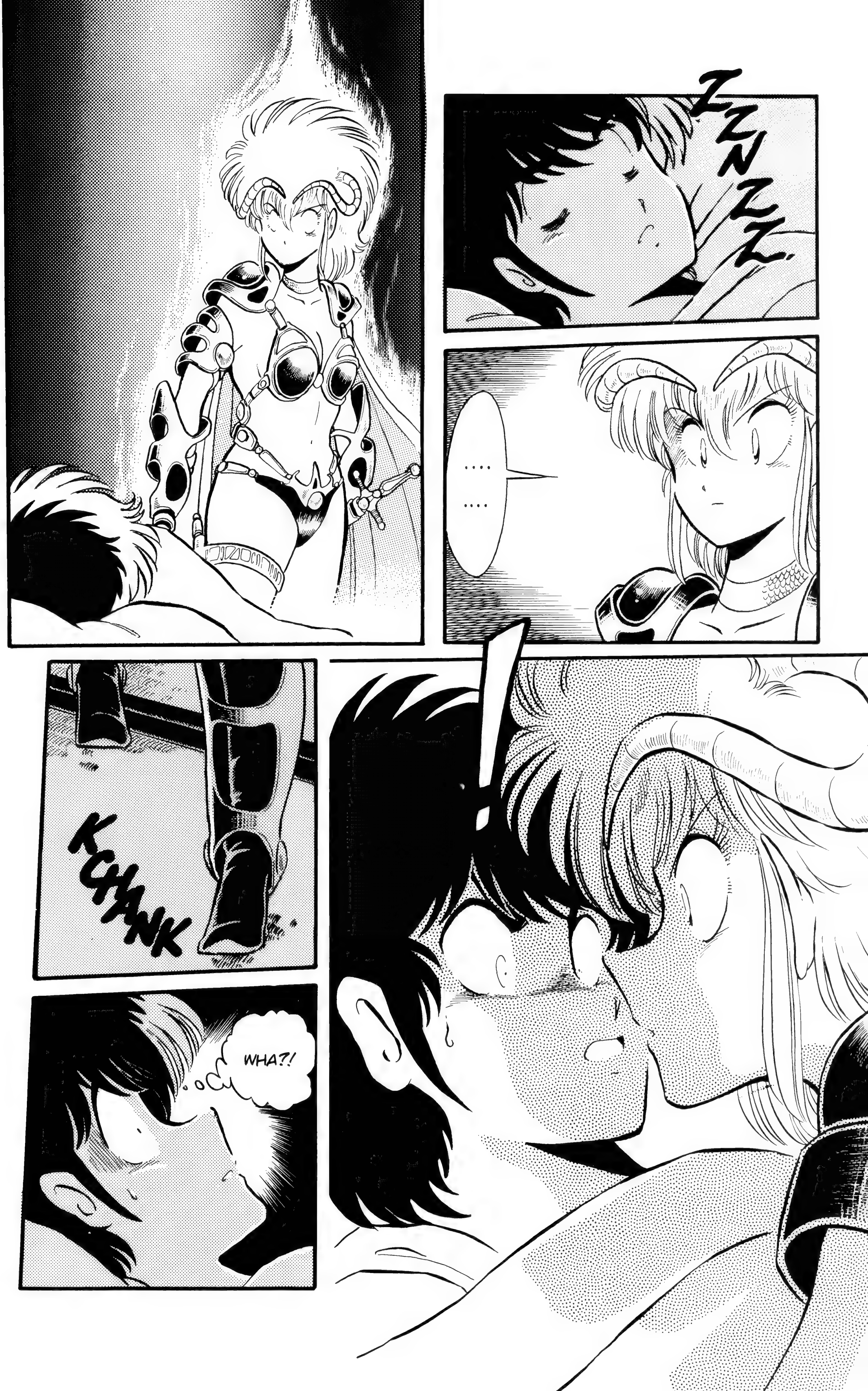

NO GOOD! GET US OUT OF HERE!
VVNWNVVN
USSC

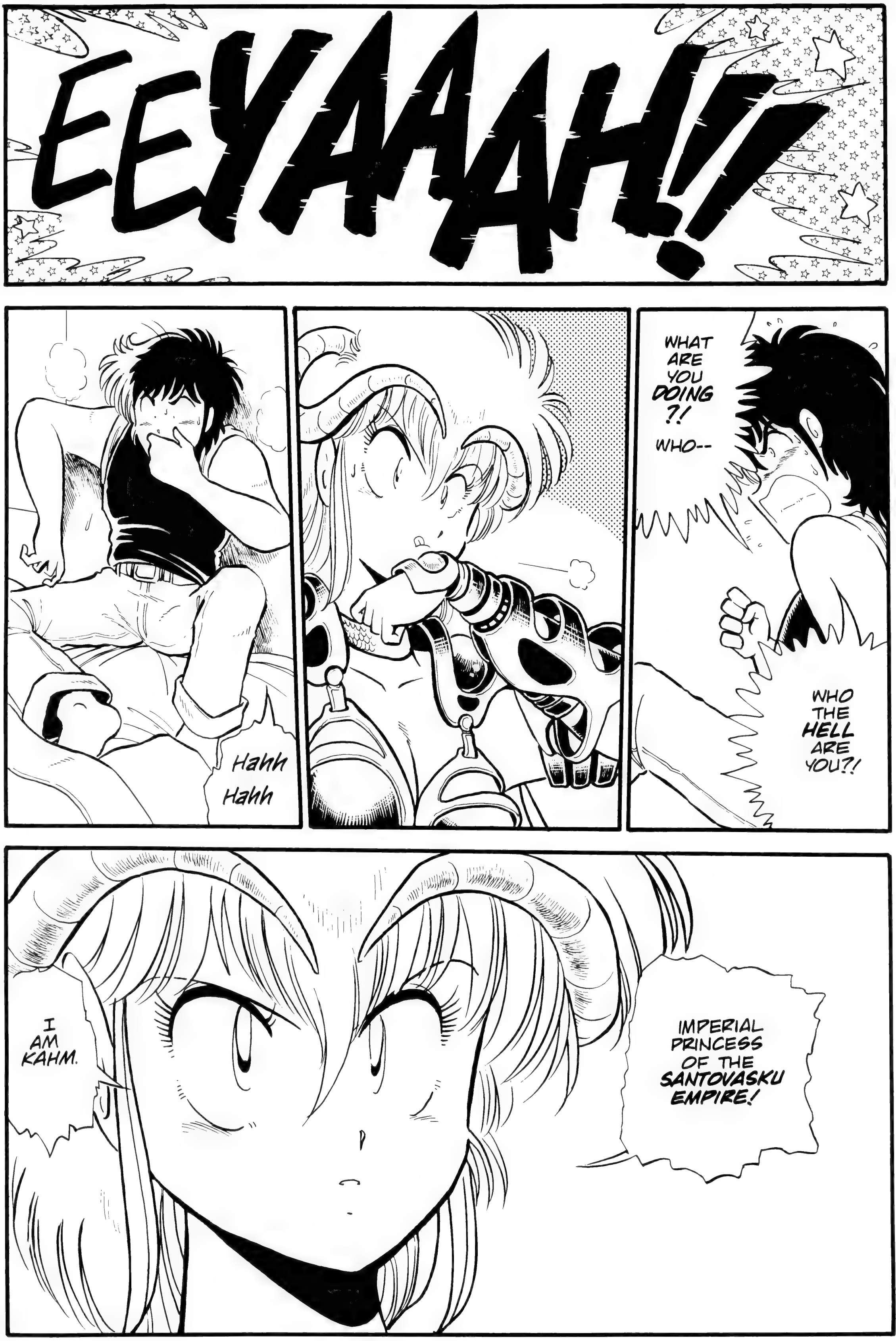

SPKK
US
NOOO !!
MAIN ENGINE! EMERGENCY OVERBOOST !!
THIS IS THE POSEIDON! MAYDAY! MAYDAY!
RMBRMB
HE... HELP !!

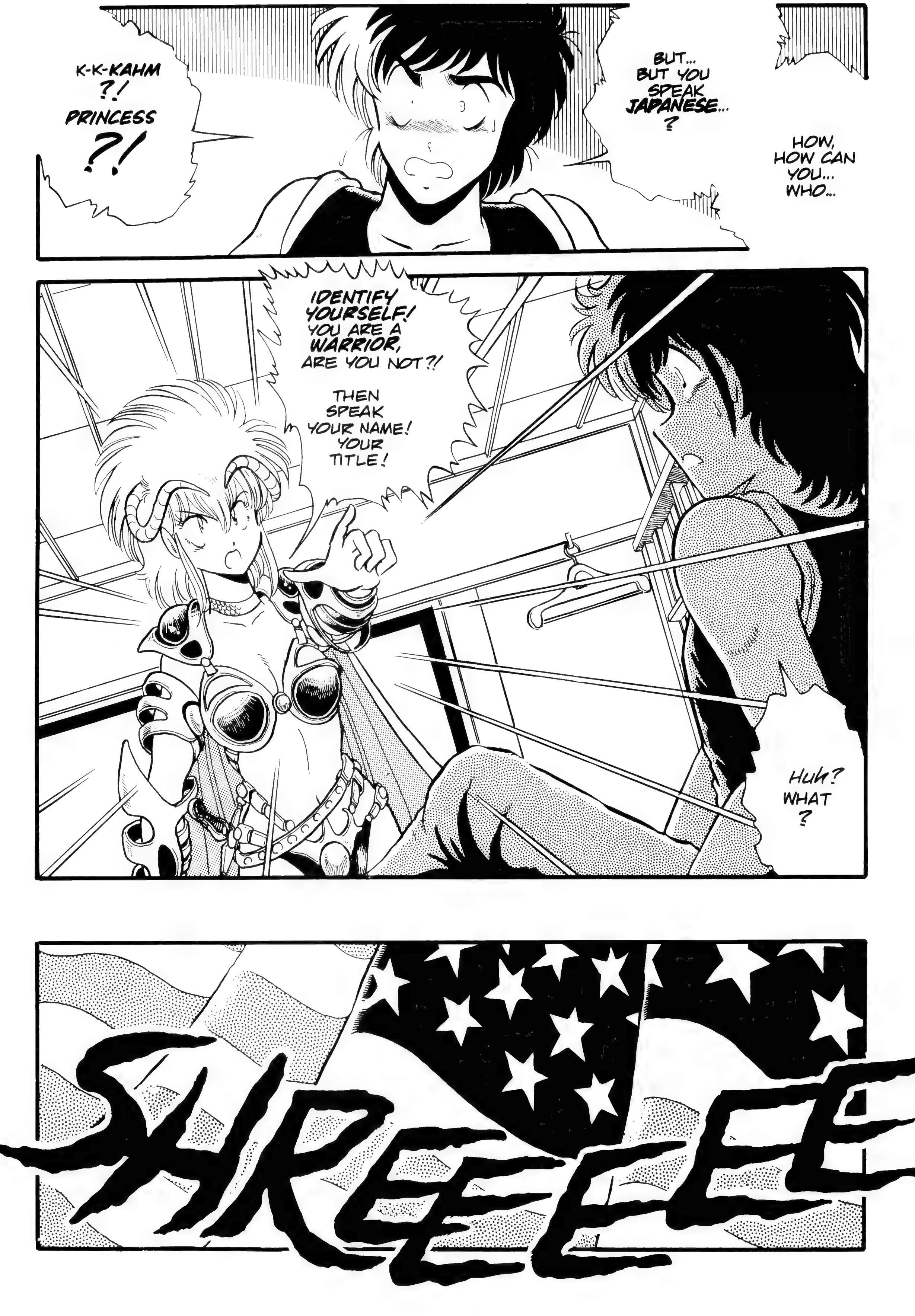

SKCH
IT... IT'S EATING US...!
SKNCH
SKRAK
Huh! FOOLS!
THIS is ALL BECAUSE YOU LOWER BEASTS HAVE THE NERVE TO FIGHT US!

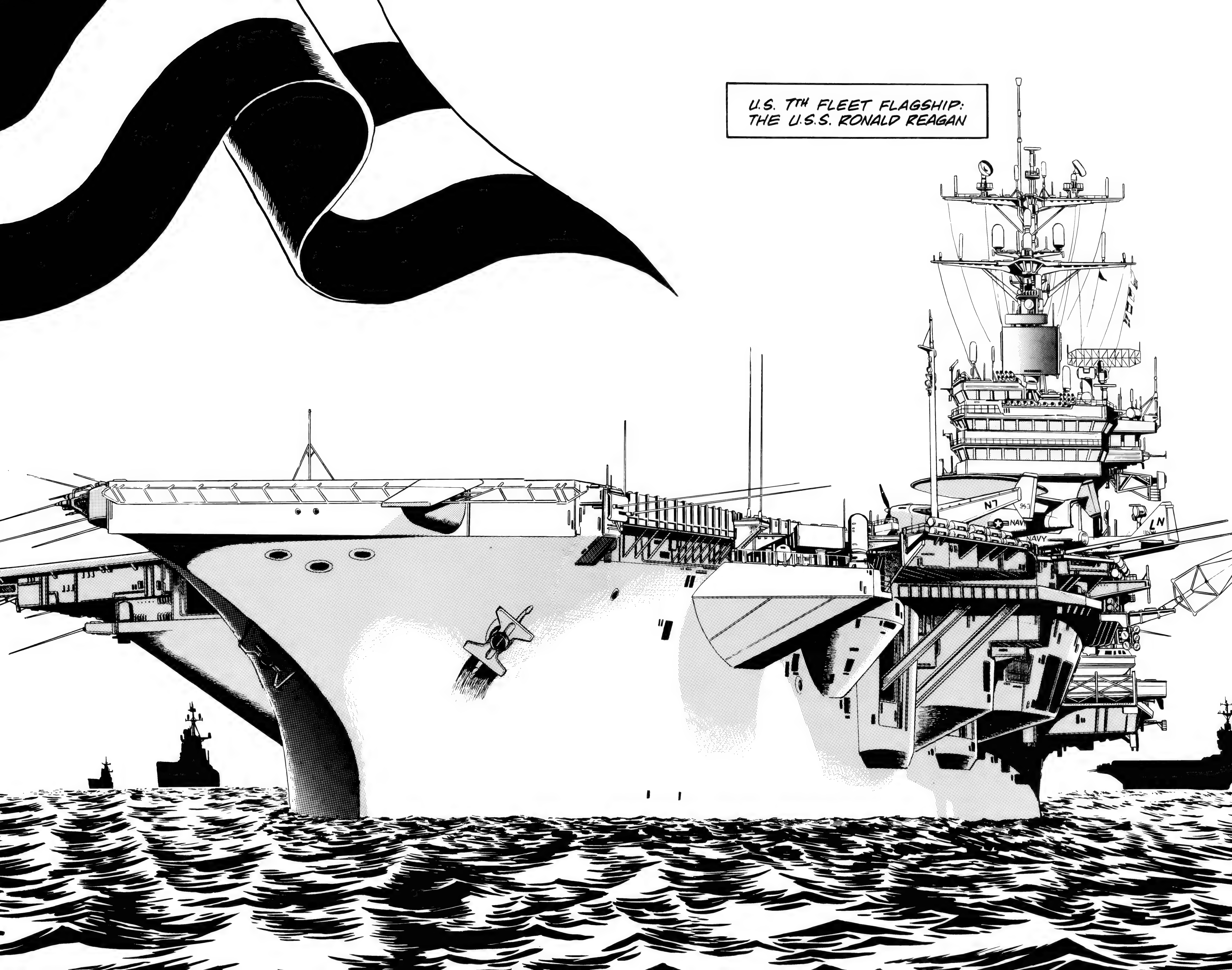

VUNVUNVUNVUN
UNITED MILITARY COMMAND GHQ, DO YOU READ? THIS IS **SALYUT FIVE** CALLING...
THE ALIEN MOTHER SHIP HAS DESTROYED **POSEIDON!**
ENEMY NOW ENTERING THE ATMOSPHERE! ALL STATIONS ALERT!
WE REPEAT, MAXIMUM ALERT!

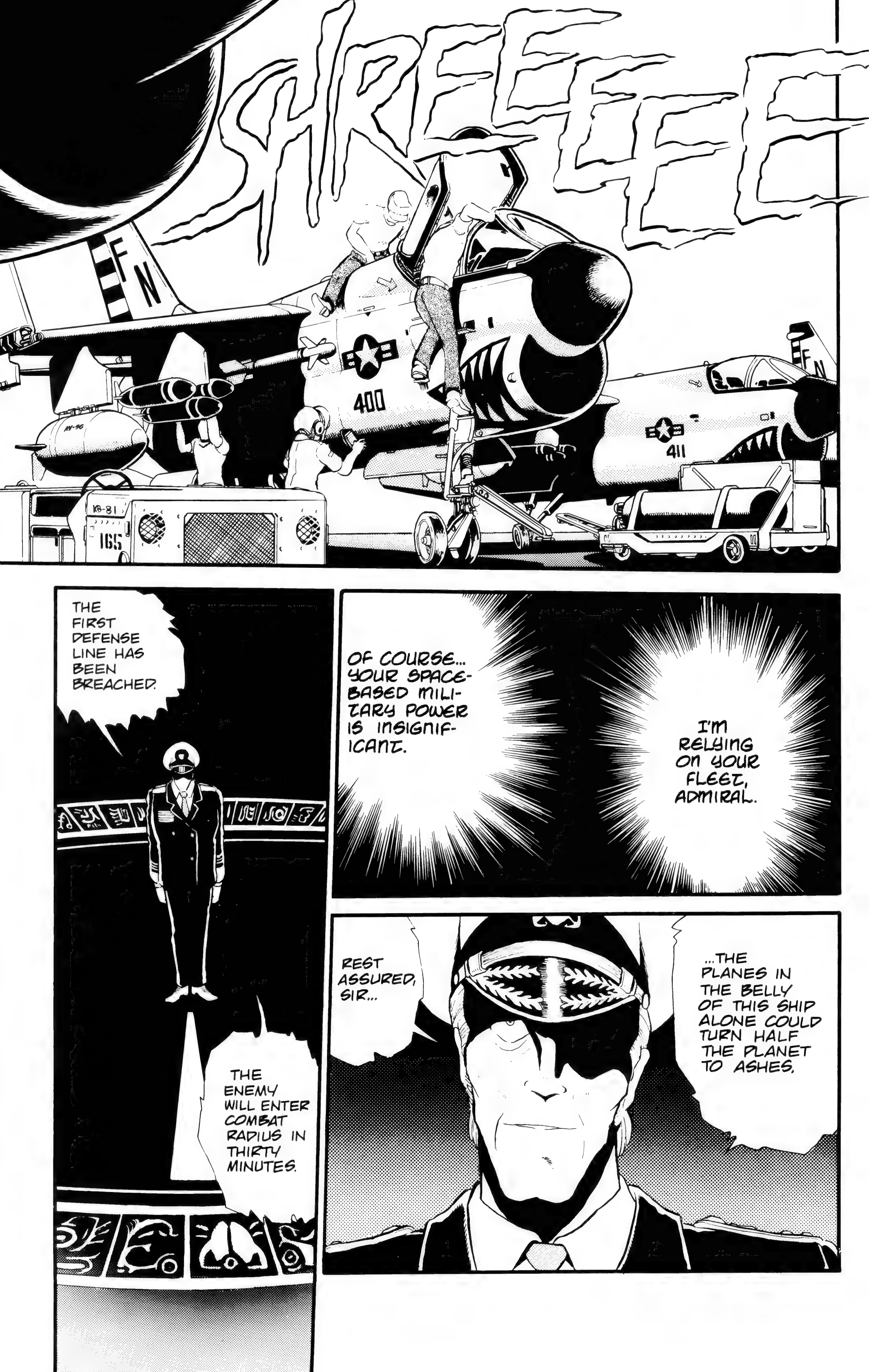

TICK TOCK
VZZZT!

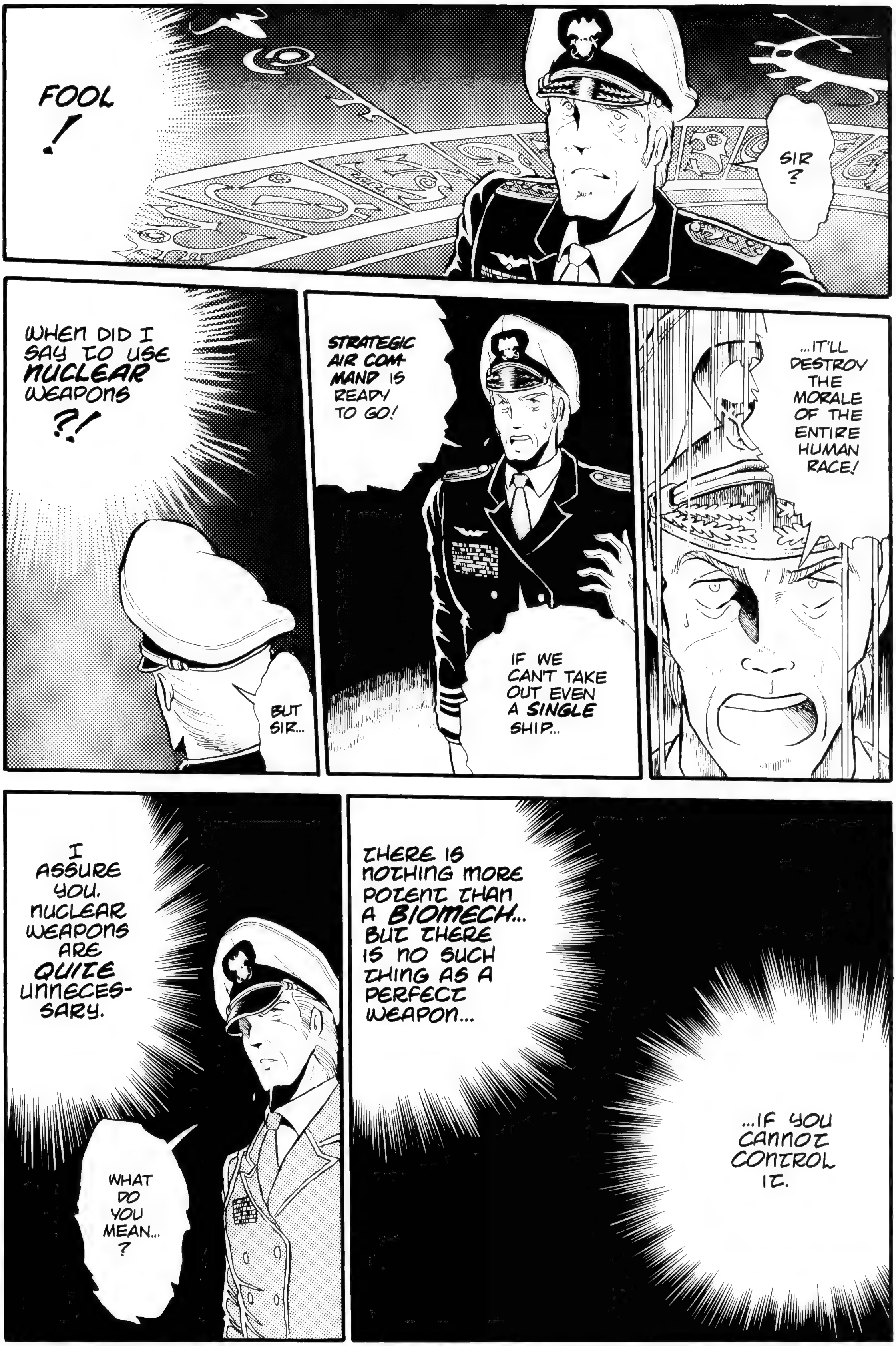

ZZNZZ.
....
....
KCHANK
WHA?!

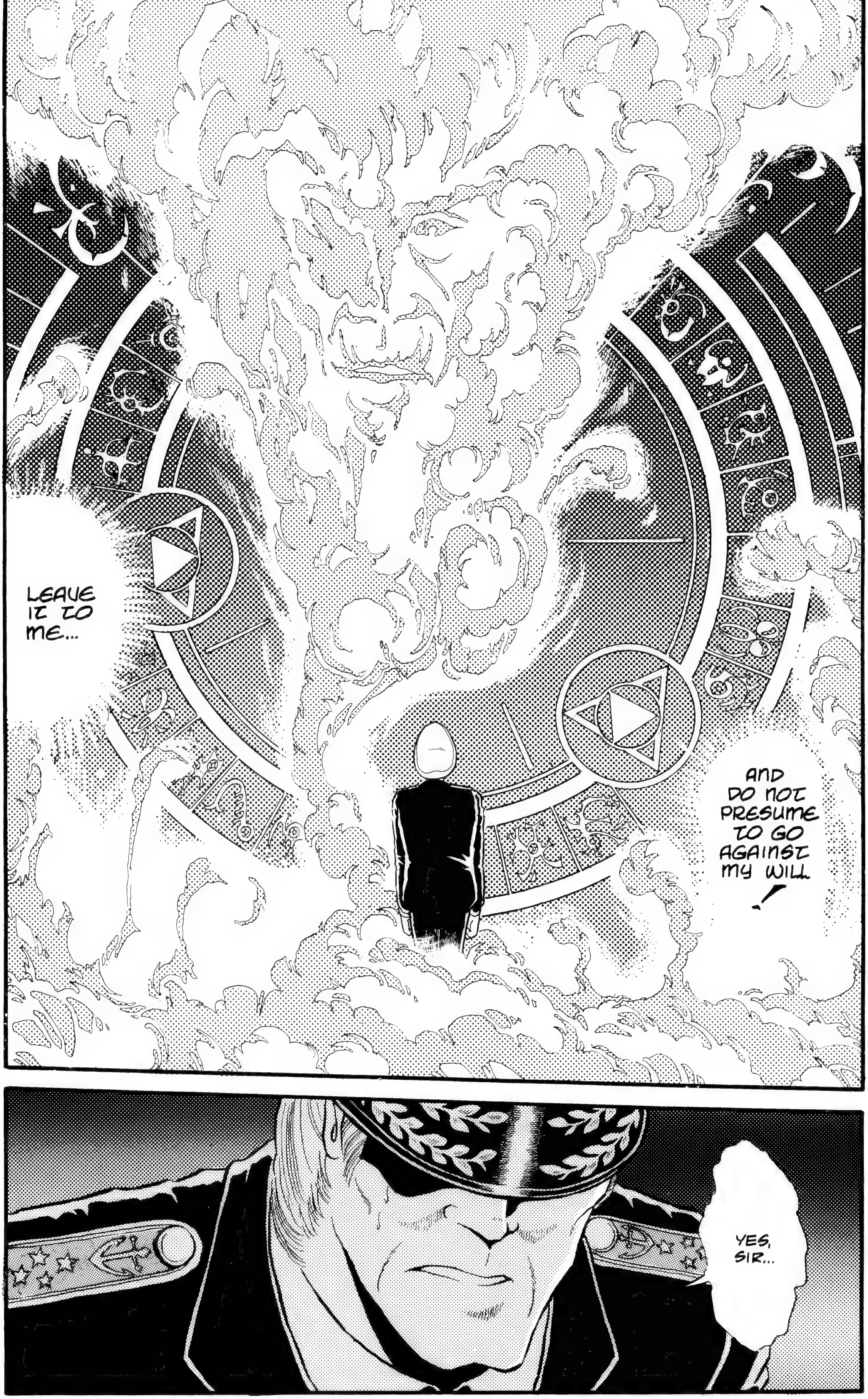

EEYAAAH!!
Hahh Hahh
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
WHO--
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
I AM KAHM.
IMPERIAL PRINCESS OF THE SANTOVASKU EMPIRE!


K-K-KAHM ?! PRINCESS ?!
BUT... BUT YOU SPEAK JAPANESE... ?
HOW, HOW CAN YOU... WHO...
IDENTIFY YOURSELF! YOU ARE A WARRIOR, ARE YOU NOT?!
THEN SPEAK YOUR NAME! YOUR TITLE!
Huh? WHAT ?
SHREEEEE

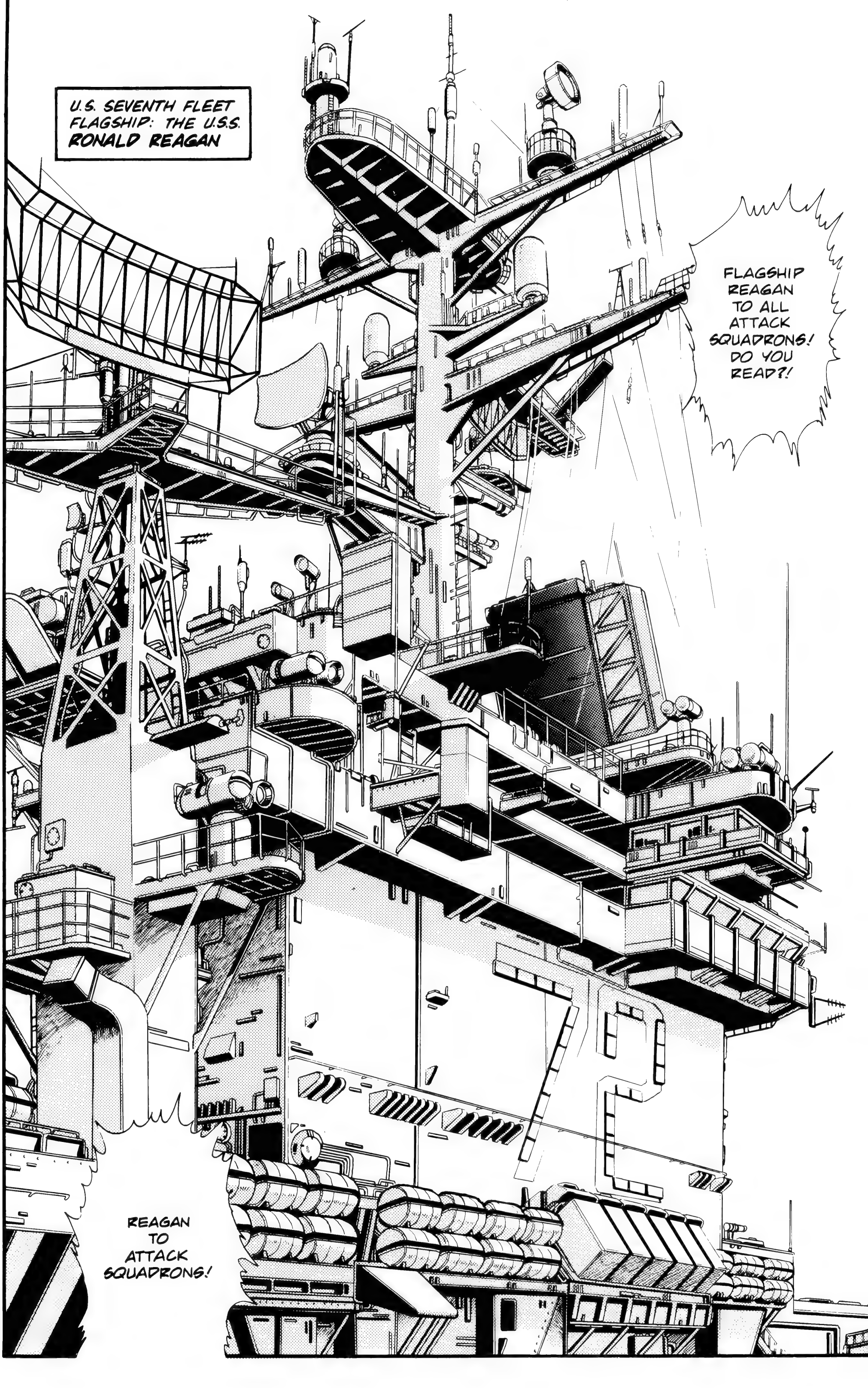

U.S. 7TH FLEET FLAGSHIP:
THE U.S.S. RONALD REAGAN
N7
NAVY
LN
NAVY

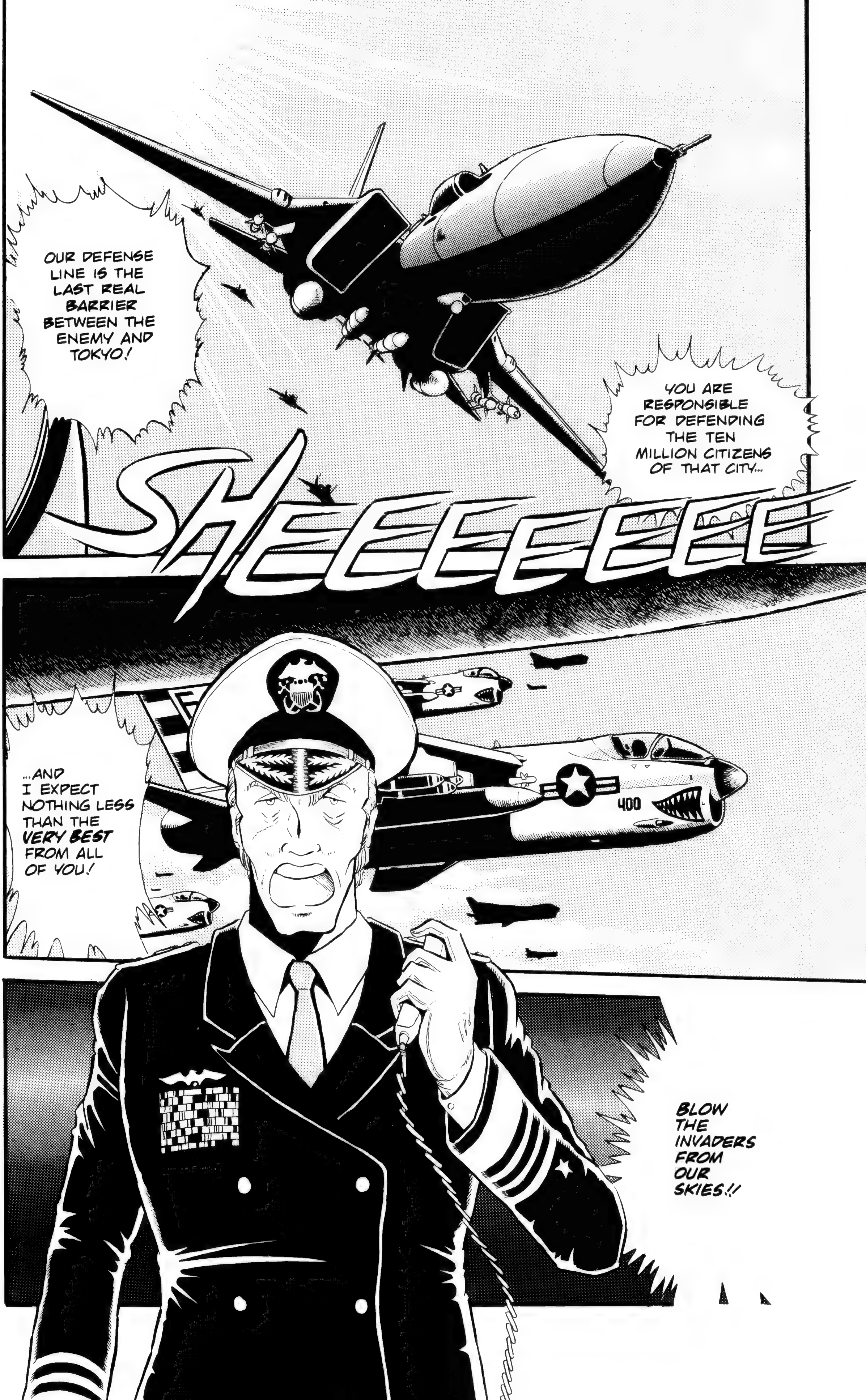

SHREEEEE
FN
400
411
FN
KB-81
165
THE FIRST DEFENSE LINE HAS BEEN BREACHED.
THE ENEMY WILL ENTER COMBAT RADIUS IN THIRTY MINUTES.
OF COURSE... YOUR SPACE-BASED MILITARY POWER IS INSIGNIFICANT.
I'M RELYING ON YOUR FLEET, ADMIRAL.
REST ASSURED, SIR...
...THE PLANES IN THE BELLY OF THIS SHIP ALONE COULD TURN HALF THE PLANET TO ASHES.

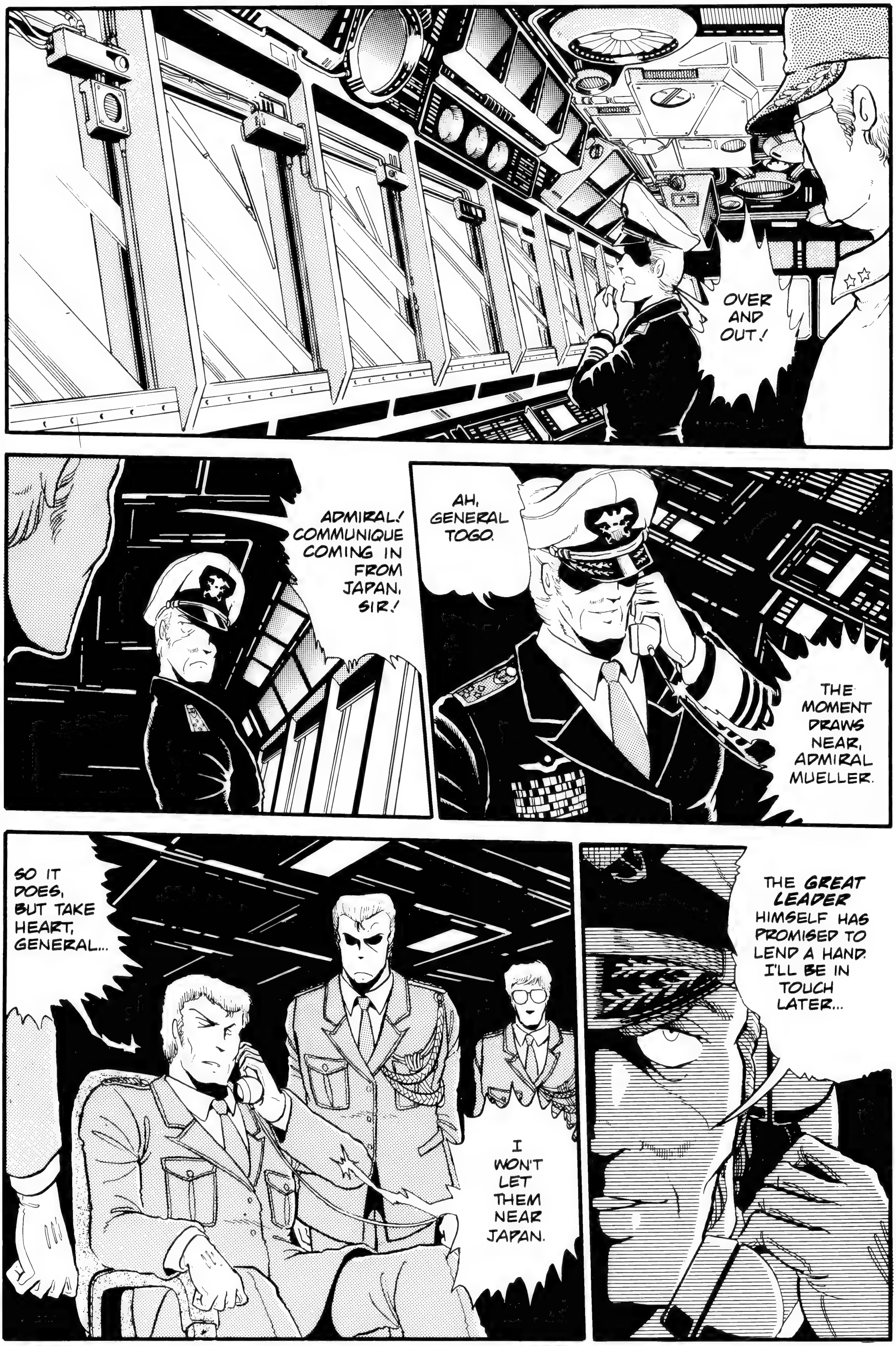

FOOL!
SIR?
WHEN DID I SAY TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS?!
BUT SIR...
STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND IS READY TO GO!
IF WE CAN'T TAKE OUT EVEN A SINGLE SHIP...
...IT'LL DESTROY THE MORALE OF THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE!
I ASSURE YOU. NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE QUITE UNNECESSARY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?
THERE IS NOTHING MORE POTENT THAN A BIOMECH... BUT THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A PERFECT WEAPON...
...IF YOU CANNOT CONTROL IT.

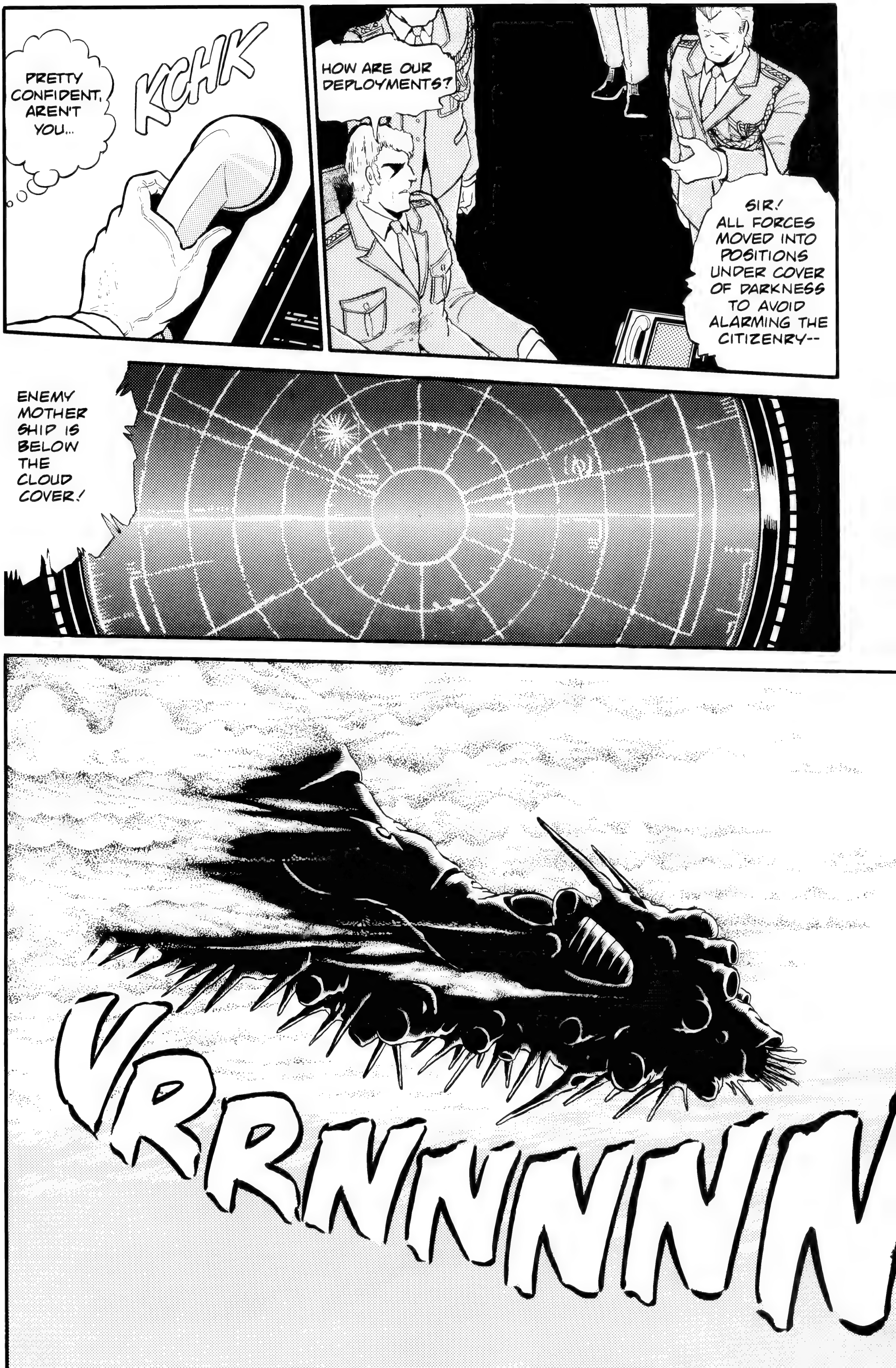

LEAVE IT TO ME...
AND DO NOT PRESUME TO GO AGAINST MY WILL!
YES, SIR...

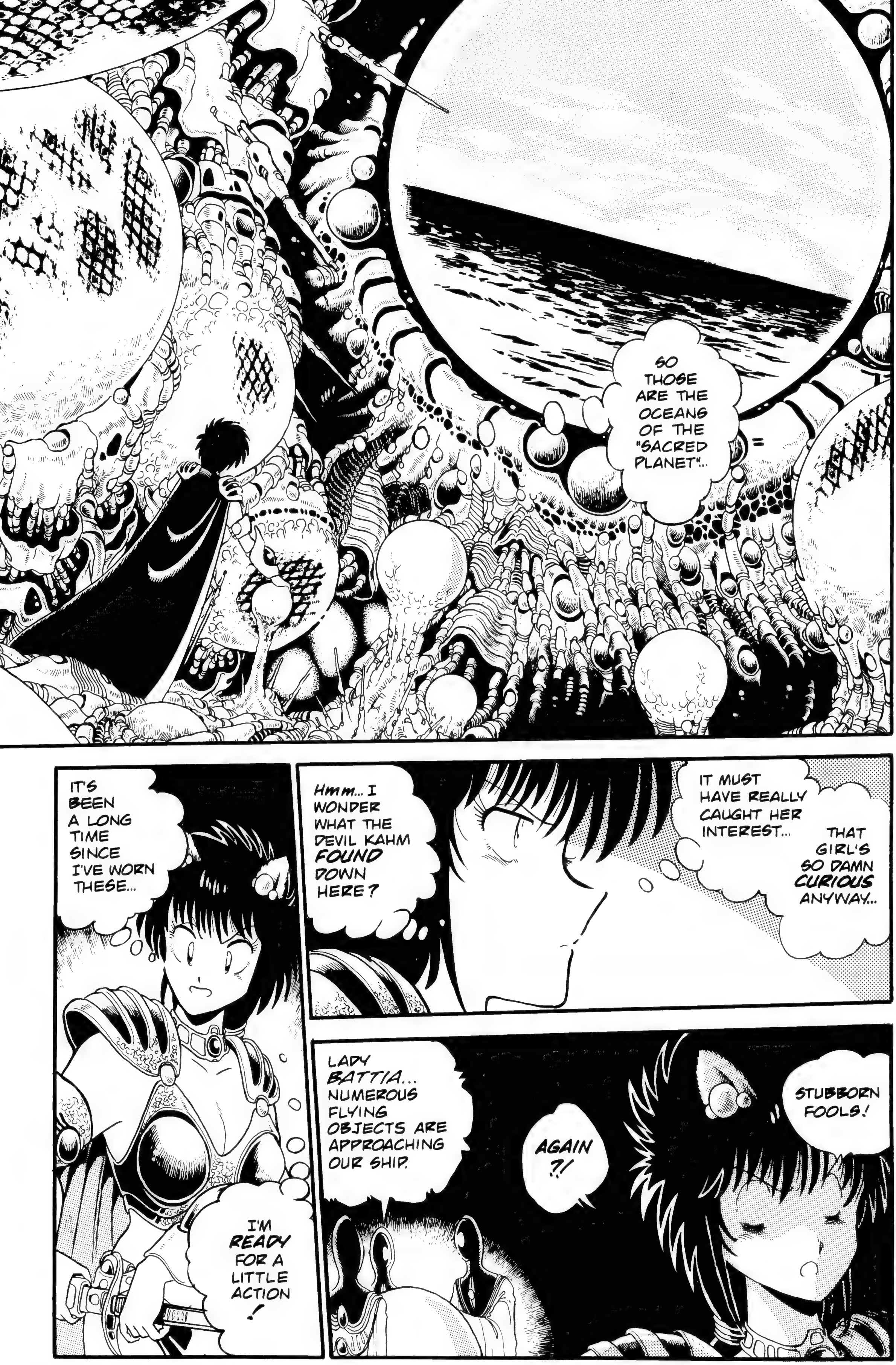
CHAPTER 4

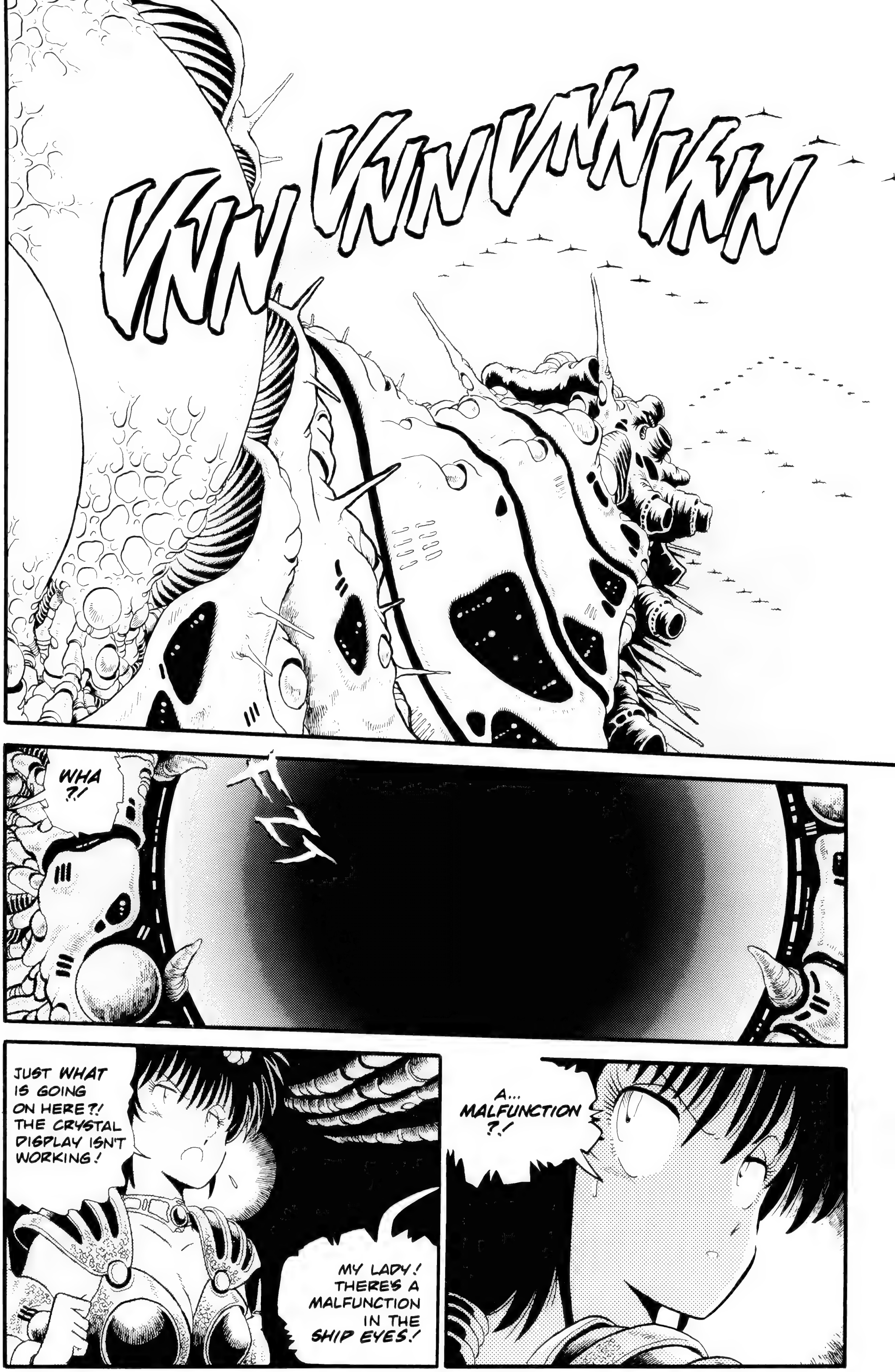

U.S. SEVENTH FLEET FLAGSHIP: THE U.S.S. RONALD REAGAN
FLAGSHIP REAGAN TO ALL ATTACK SQUADRONS! DO YOU READ?!
REAGAN TO ATTACK SQUADRONS!

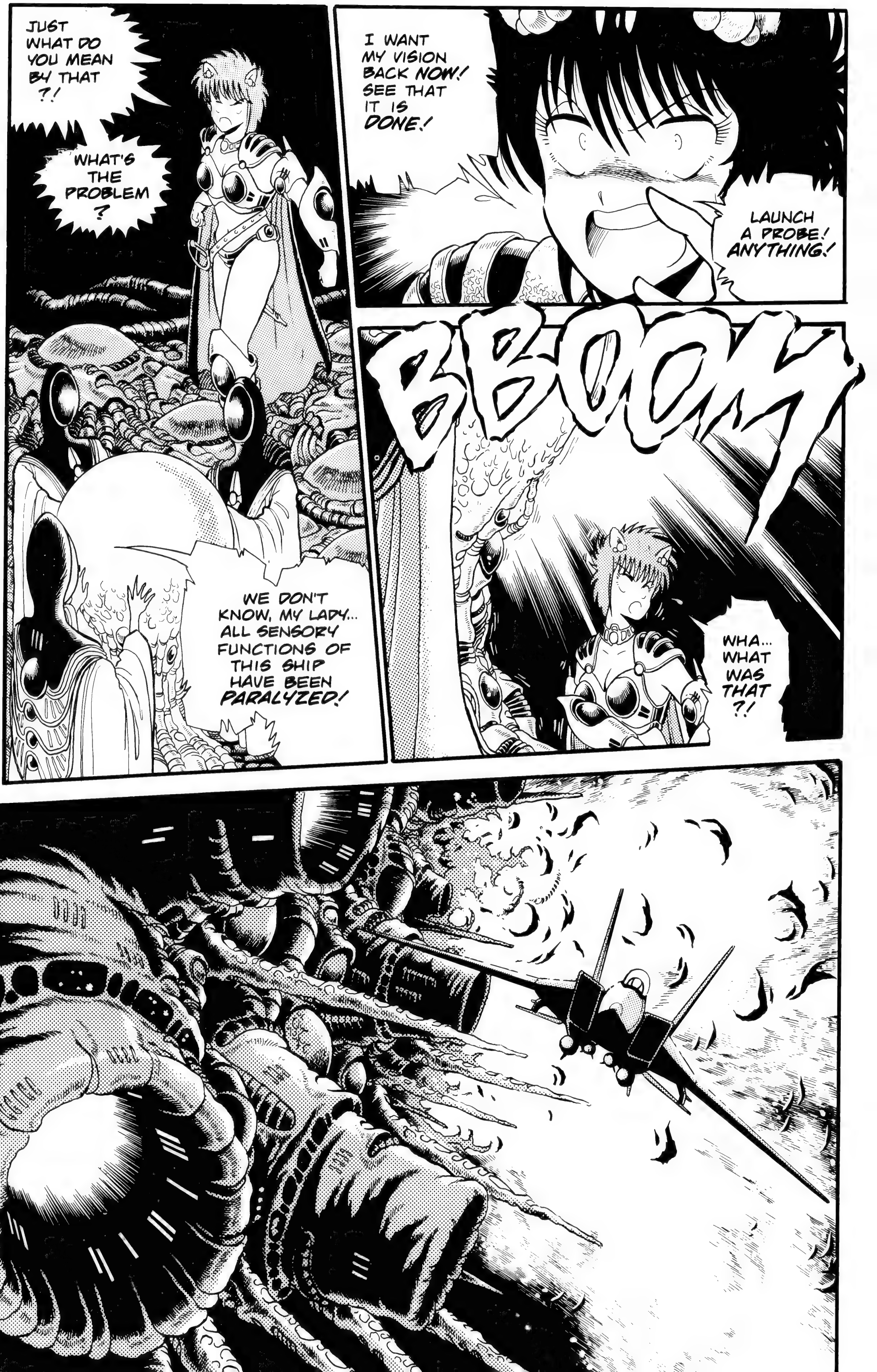

OUR DEFENSE LINE IS THE LAST REAL BARRIER BETWEEN THE ENEMY AND TOKYO!
YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DEFENDING THE TEN MILLION CITIZENS OF THAT CITY...
SHEEEEEEEE
...AND I EXPECT NOTHING LESS THAN THE **VERY BEST** FROM ALL OF YOU!
400
BLOW THE INVADERS FROM OUR SKIES!!

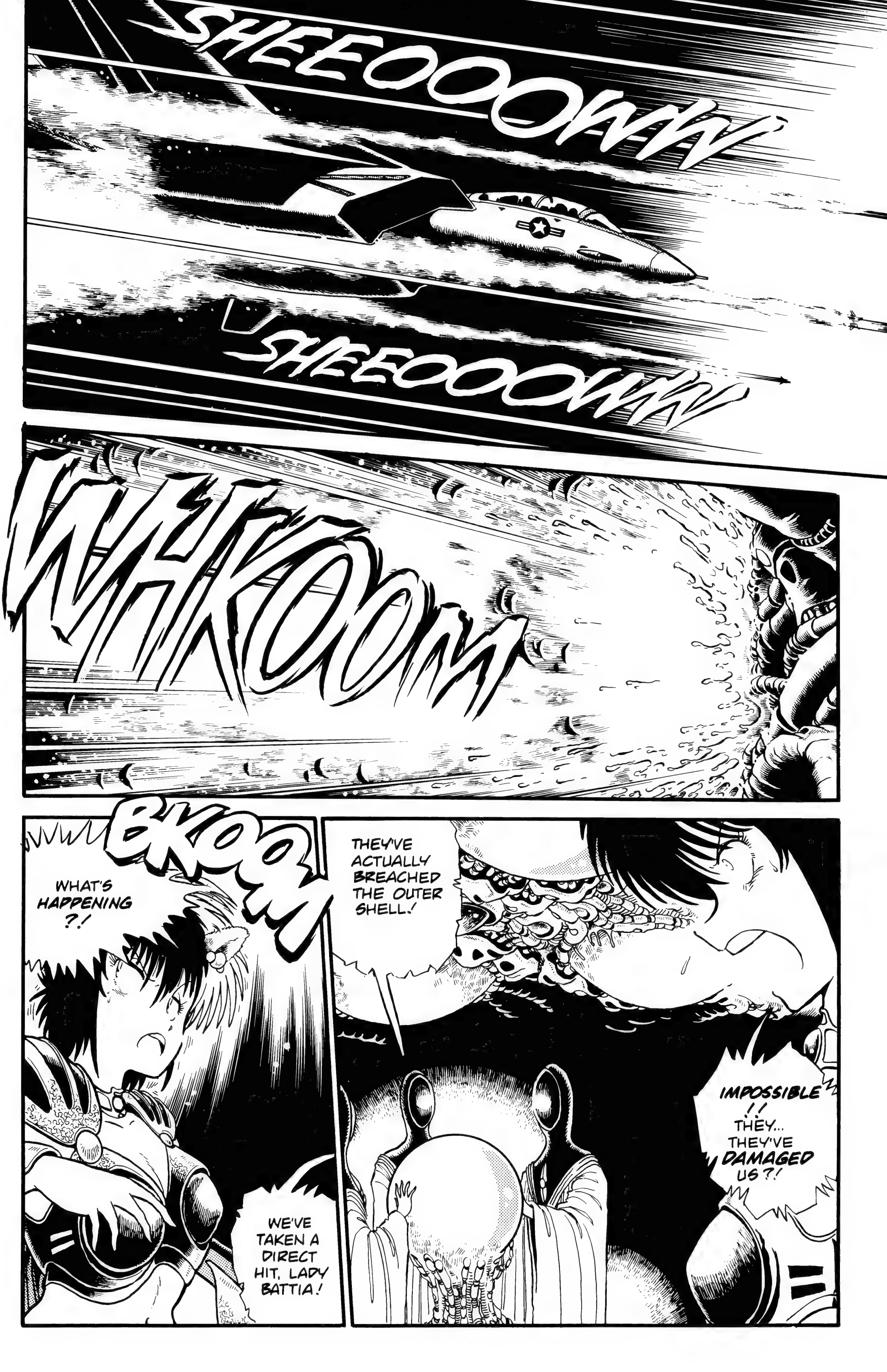

OVER AND OUT!
ADMIRAL! COMMUNIQUE COMING IN FROM JAPAN, SIR!
AH, GENERAL TOGO.
THE MOMENT DRAWS NEAR, ADMIRAL MUELLER.
SO IT DOES, BUT TAKE HEART, GENERAL...
I WON'T LET THEM NEAR JAPAN.
THE *GREAT LEADER* HIMSELF HAS PROMISED TO LEND A HAND. I'LL BE IN TOUCH LATER...

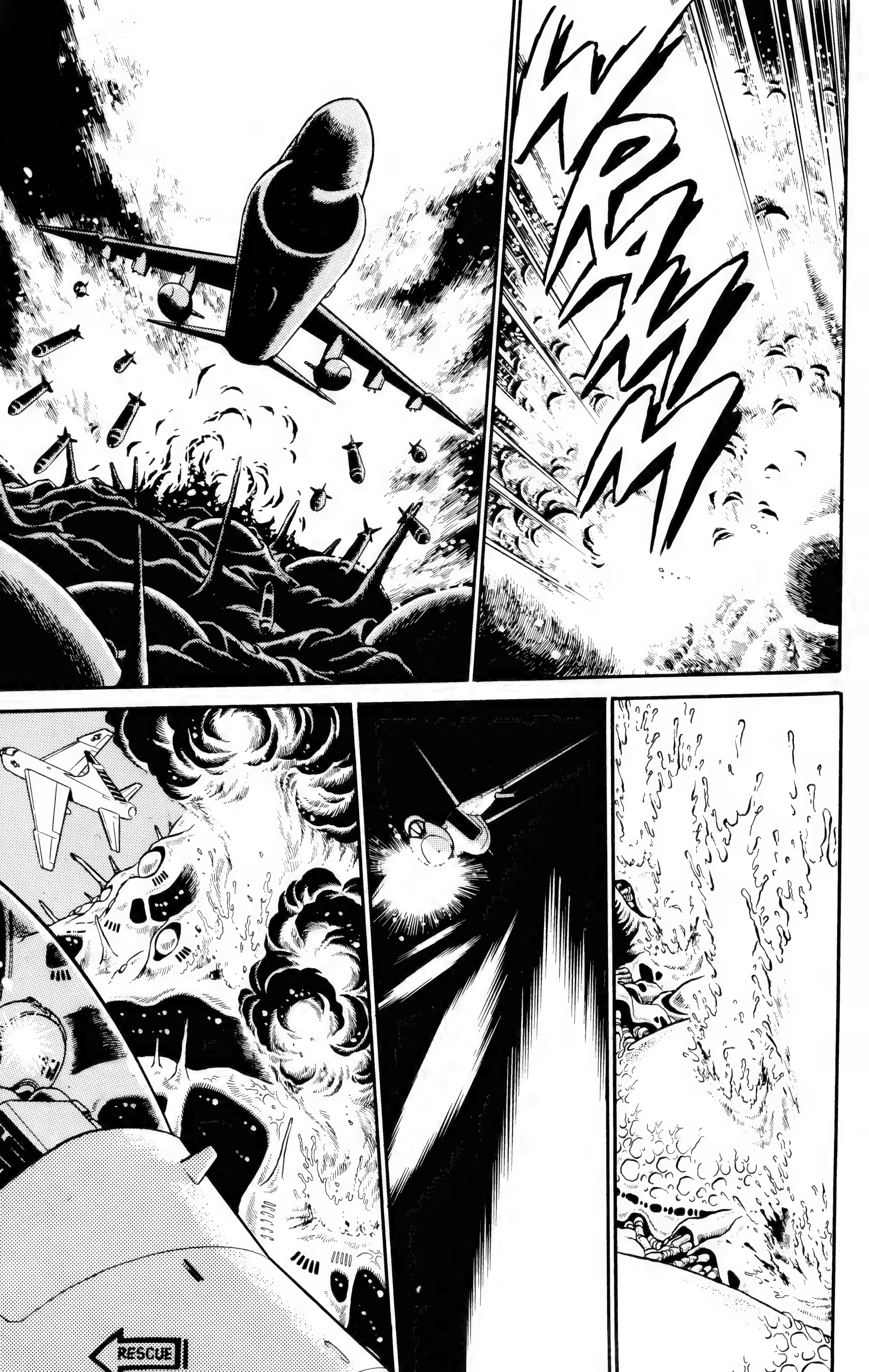

PRETTY CONFIDENT, AREN'T YOU...
KCHK
HOW ARE OUR DEPLOYMENTS?
SIR! ALL FORCES MOVED INTO POSITIONS UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS TO AVOID ALARMING THE CITIZENRY--
ENEMY MOTHER SHIP IS BELOW THE CLOUD COVER!
VRRNNNNNN

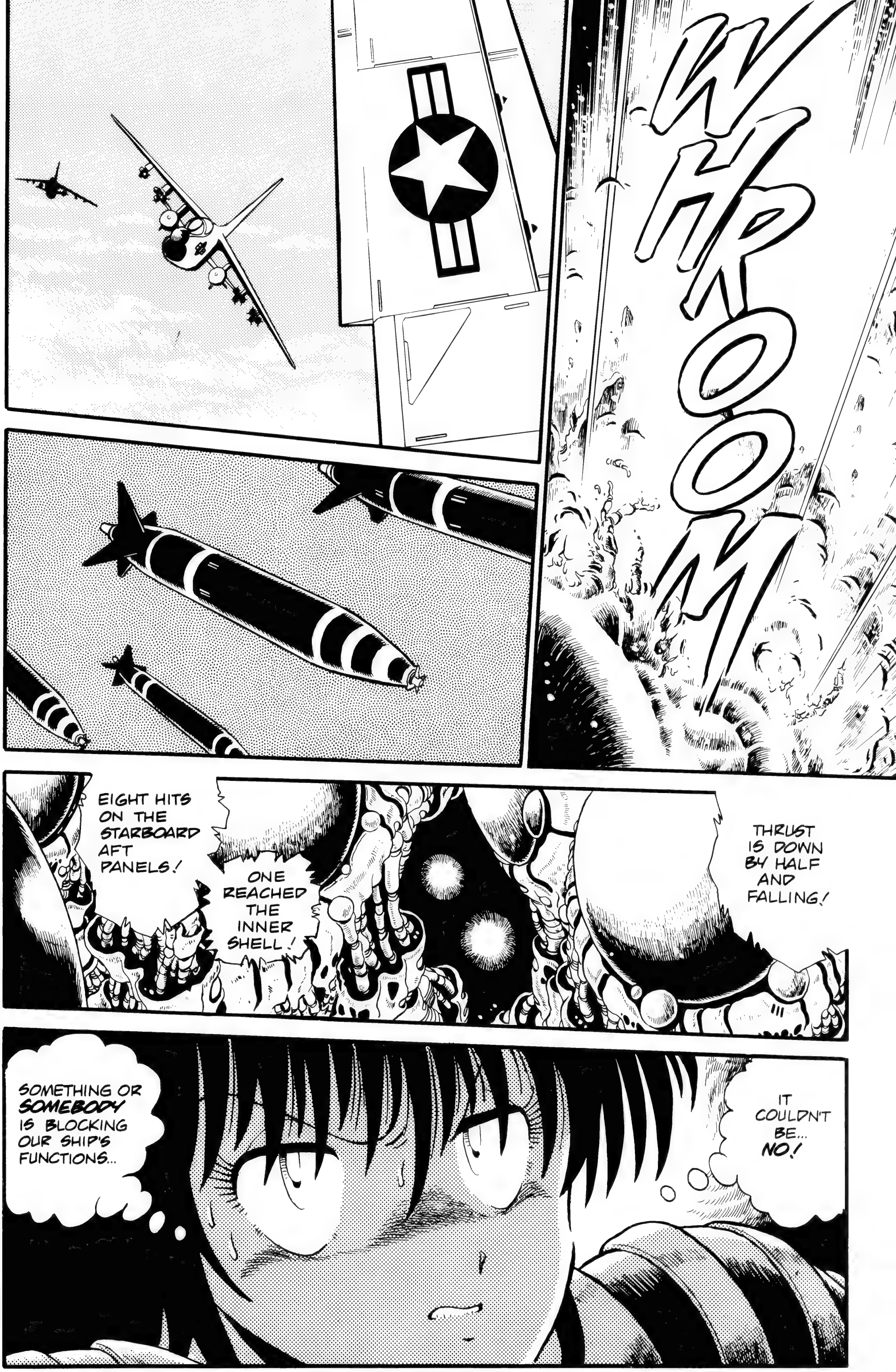

SO THOSE ARE THE OCEANS OF THE "SACRED PLANET"...
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE WORN THESE...
I'M *READY* FOR A LITTLE ACTION!
Hmm... I WONDER WHAT THE DEVIL KAHM ***FOUND*** DOWN HERE?
IT MUST HAVE REALLY CAUGHT HER INTEREST...
THAT GIRL'S SO DAMN ***CURIOUS*** ANYWAY...
LADY *BATTIA*... NUMEROUS FLYING OBJECTS ARE APPROACHING OUR SHIP.
AGAIN?!
STUBBORN FOOLS!

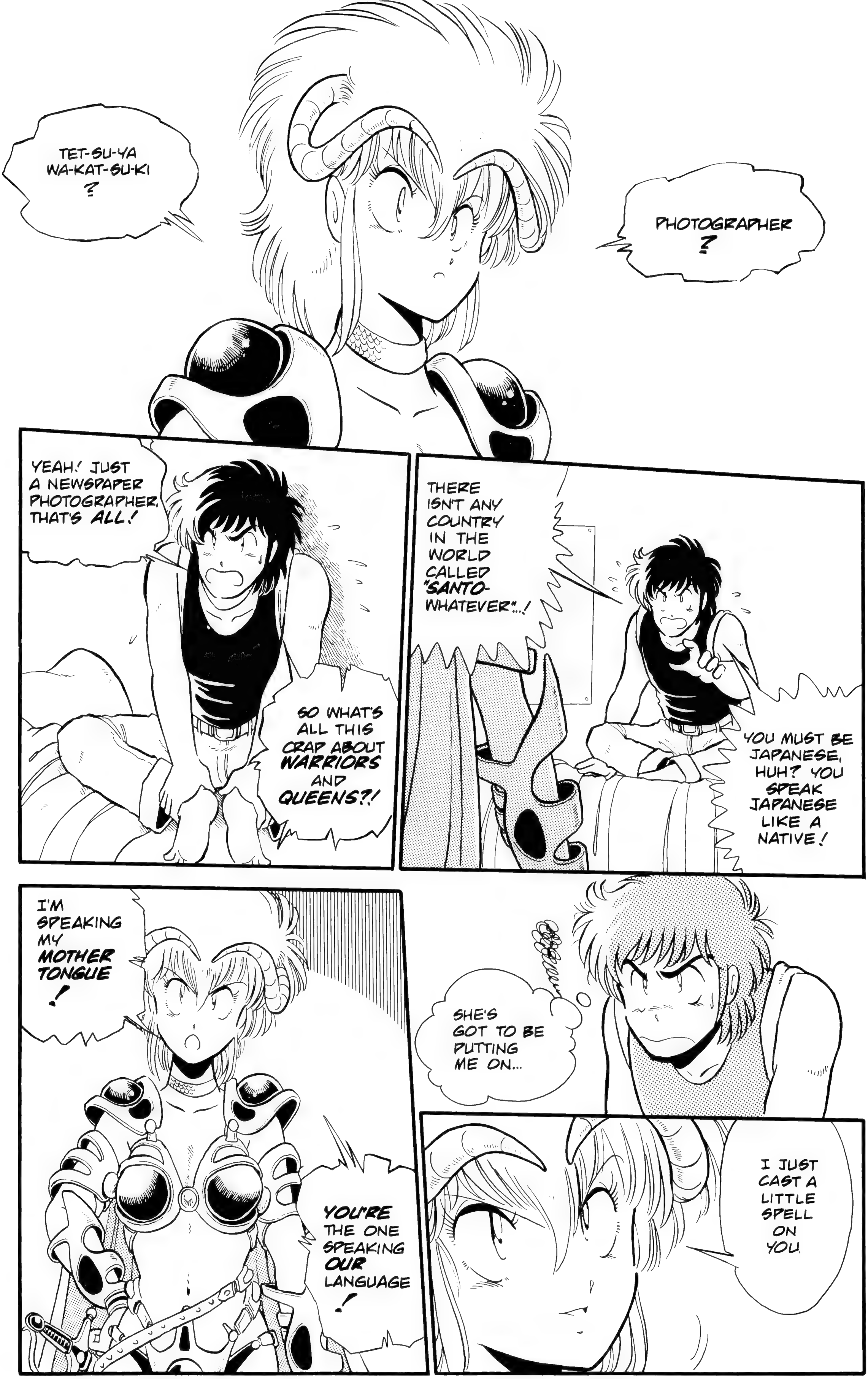

VNN VNN VNN VNN VNN VNN
WHA ?!
JUST WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?! THE CRYSTAL DISPLAY ISN'T WORKING!
MY LADY! THERE'S A MALFUNCTION IN THE SHIP EYES!
A... MALFUNCTION ?!

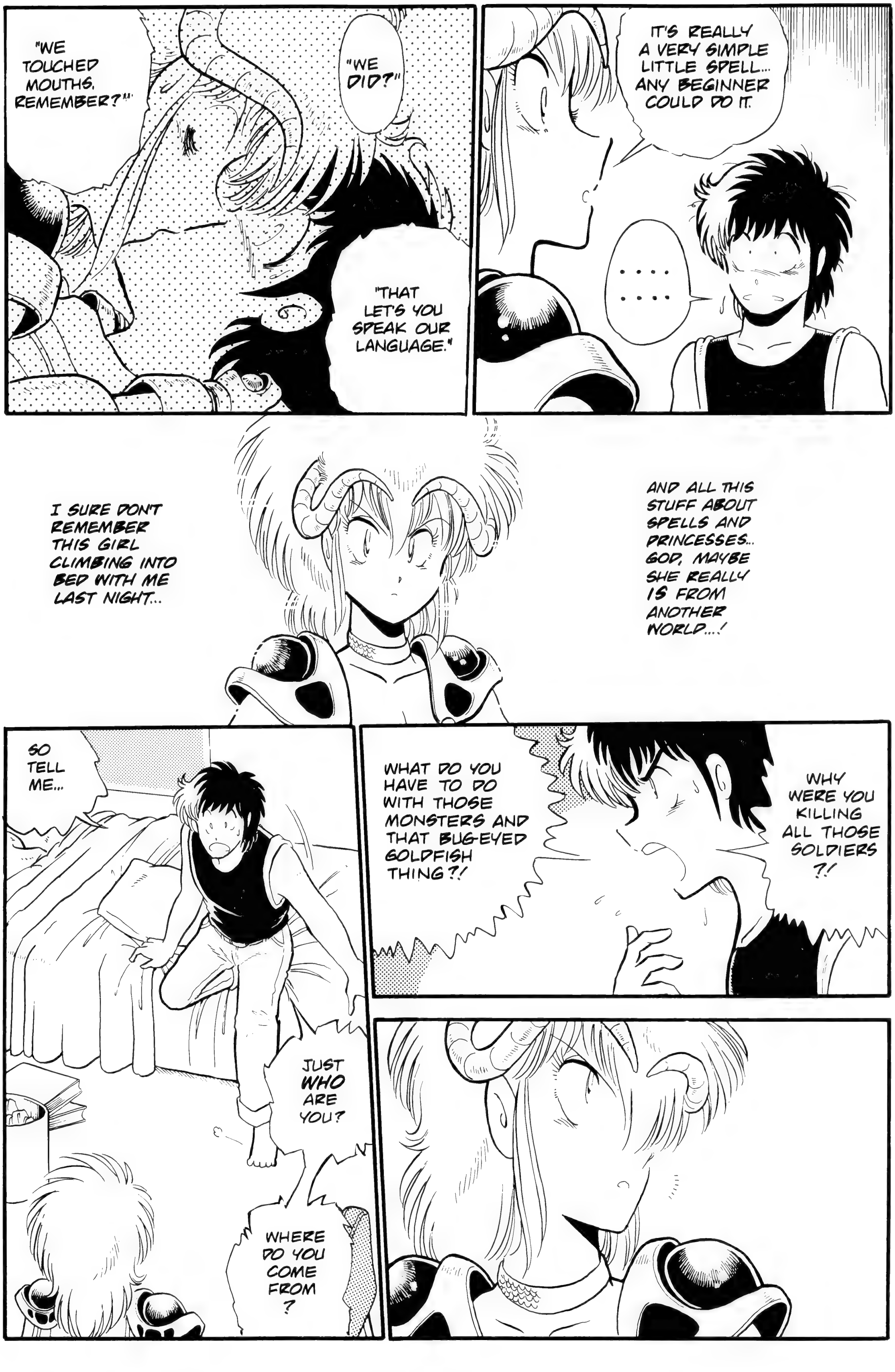

JUST WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT ?!
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM ?
WE DON'T KNOW, MY LADY... ALL SENSORY FUNCTIONS OF THIS SHIP HAVE BEEN PARALYZED!
I WANT MY VISION BACK NOW! SEE THAT IT IS DONE!
LAUNCH A PROBE! ANYTHING!
BBOOM
WHA... WHAT WAS THAT ?!

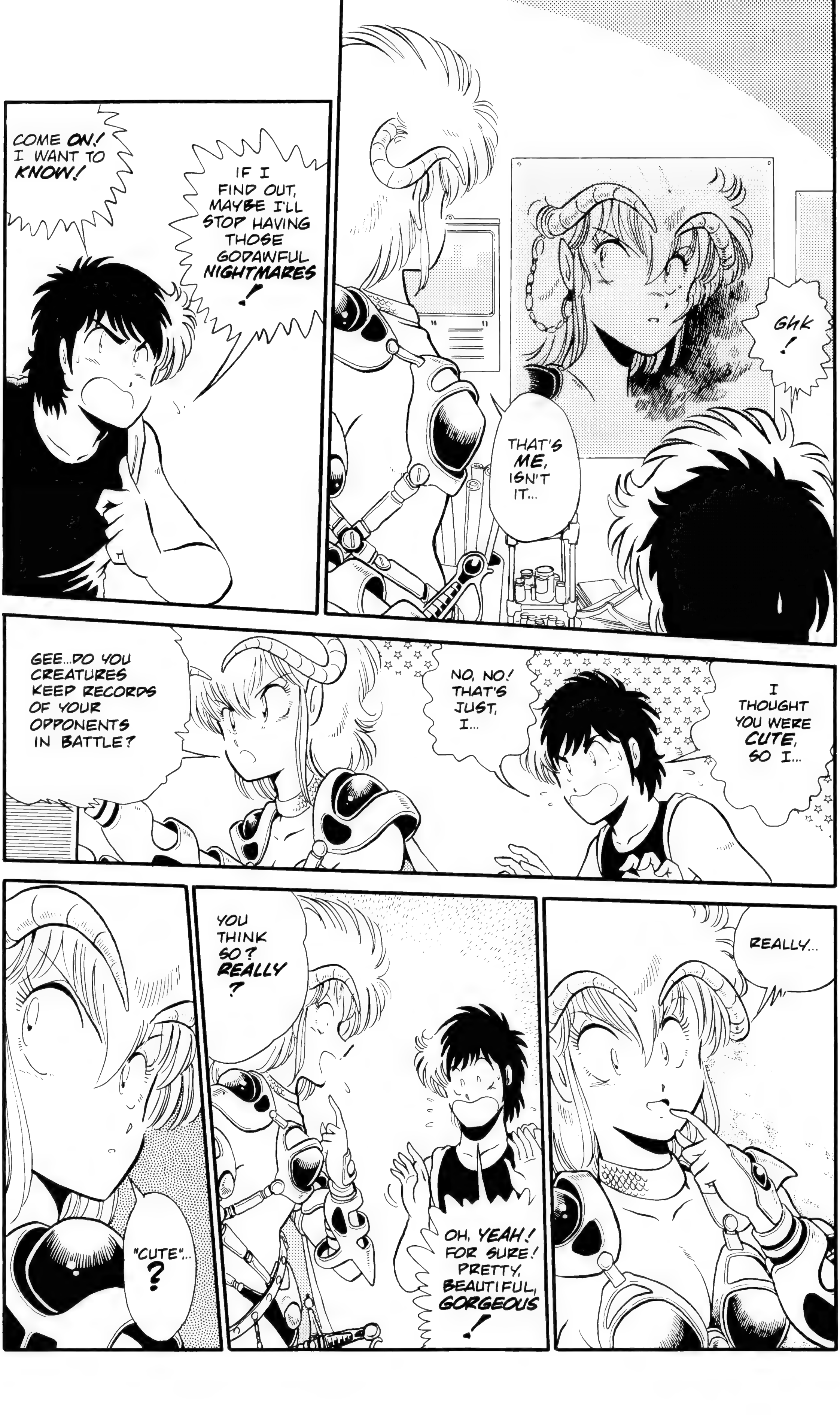

SHEEOOOWW
SHEEOOOWW
WHKOOM
BKOOM
WHAT'S HAPPENING ?!
WE'VE TAKEN A DIRECT HIT, LADY BATTIA!
THEY'VE ACTUALLY BREACHED THE OUTER SHELL!
IMPOSSIBLE!! THEY... THEY'VE DAMAGED US?!

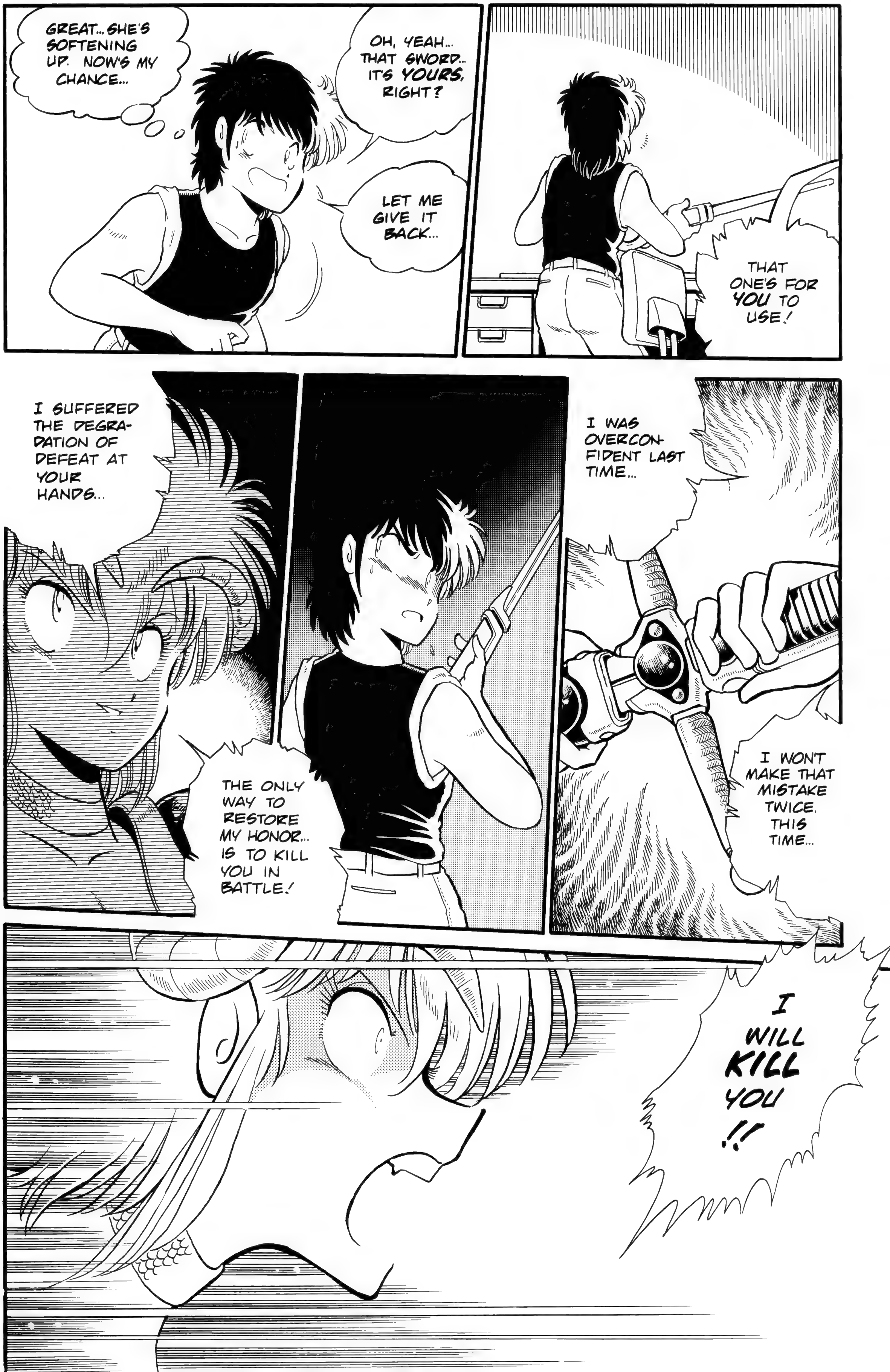

WRAMMM
RESCUE

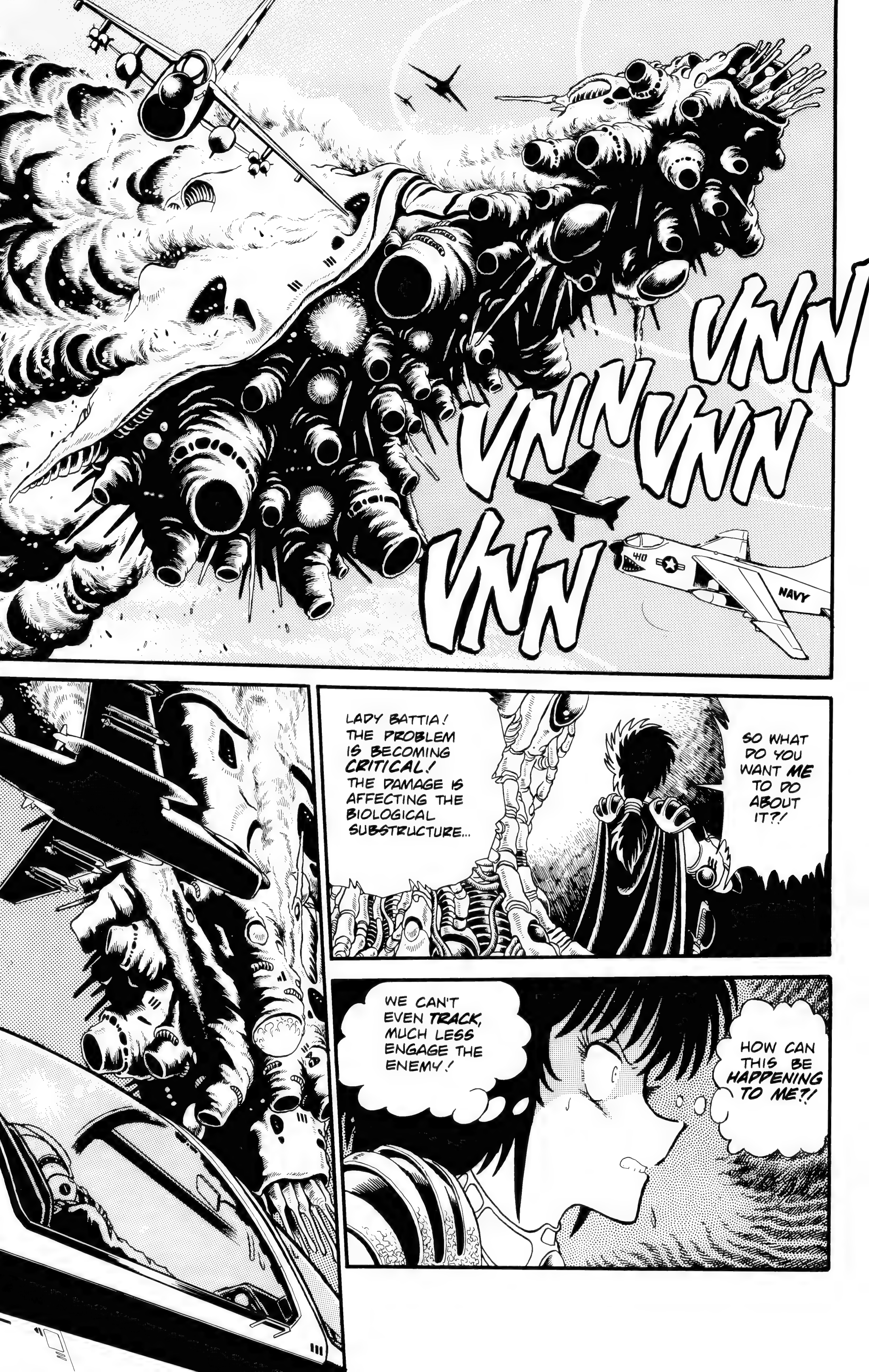

WHROOOM
EIGHT HITS ON THE STARBOARD AFT PANELS!
ONE REACHED THE INNER SHELL!
THRUST IS DOWN BY HALF AND FALLING!
SOMETHING OR **SOMEBODY** IS BLOCKING OUR SHIP'S FUNCTIONS...
IT COULDN'T BE... **NO!**

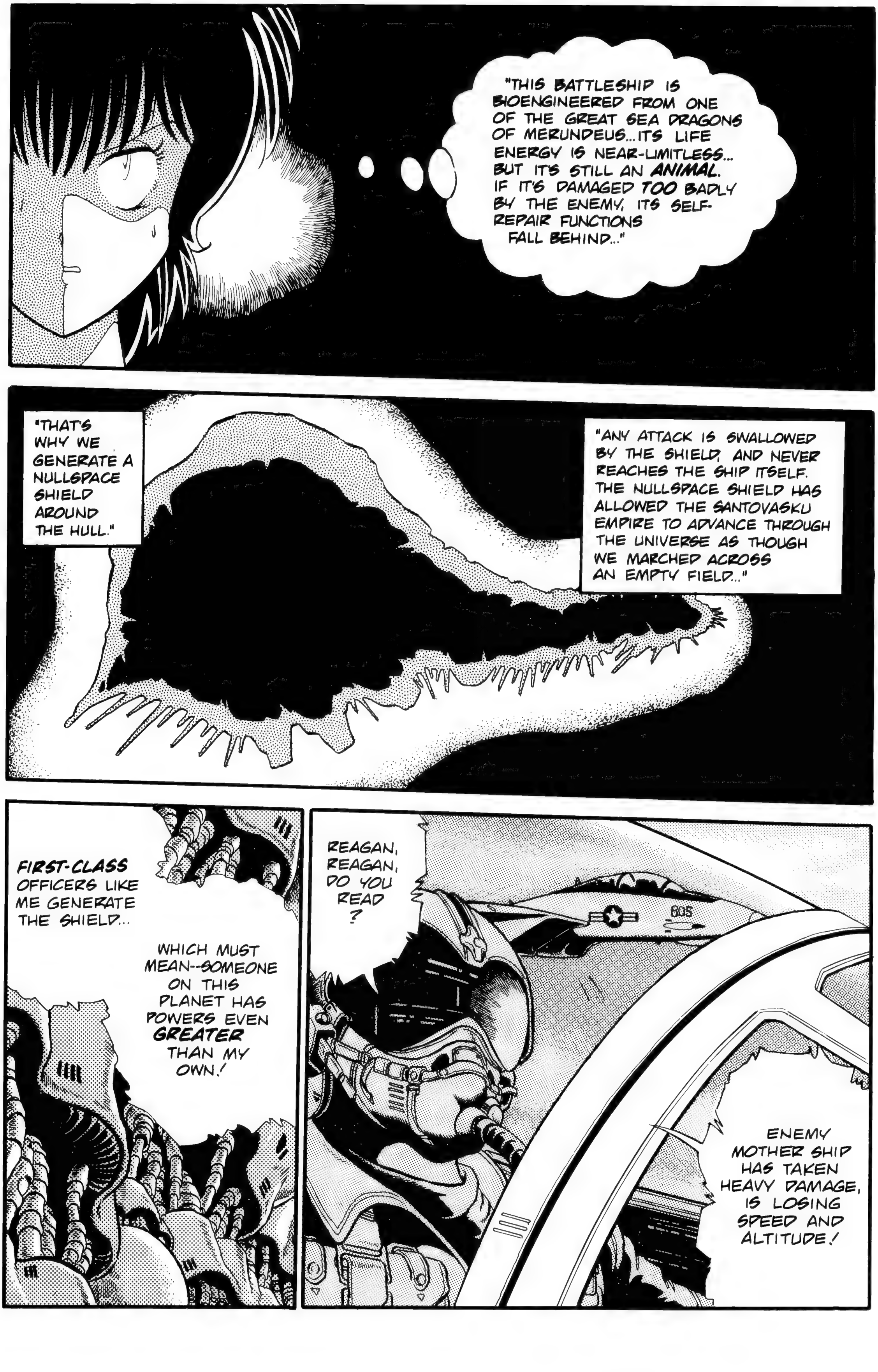

TET-SU-YA WA-KAT-SU-KI ?
PHOTOGRAPHER ?
YEAH! JUST A NEWSPAPER PHOTOGRAPHER, THAT'S ALL!
SO WHAT'S ALL THIS CRAP ABOUT WARRIORS AND QUEENS?!
THERE ISN'T ANY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD CALLED "SANTO-WHATEVER"...!
YOU MUST BE JAPANESE, HUH? YOU SPEAK JAPANESE LIKE A NATIVE!
I'M SPEAKING MY MOTHER TONGUE!
YOU'RE THE ONE SPEAKING OUR LANGUAGE!
SHE'S GOT TO BE PUTTING ME ON...
I JUST CAST A LITTLE SPELL ON YOU.

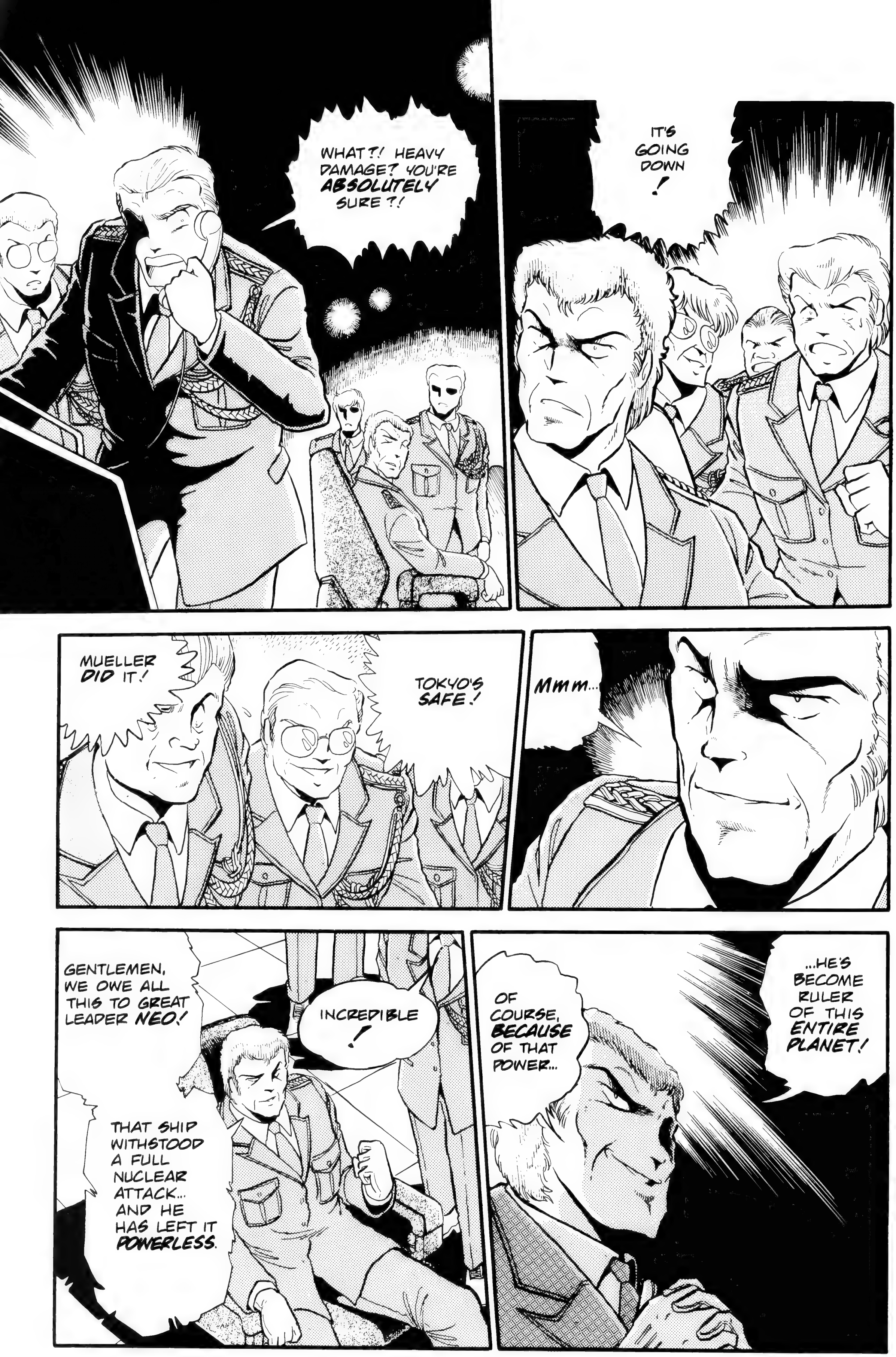

"WE TOUCHED MOUTHS, REMEMBER?"
"WE *DID?*"
"THAT LET'S YOU SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE."
IT'S REALLY A VERY SIMPLE LITTLE SPELL... ANY BEGINNER COULD DO IT.
· · · · · · · ·
I SURE DON'T REMEMBER THIS GIRL CLIMBING INTO BED WITH ME LAST NIGHT...
AND ALL THIS STUFF ABOUT SPELLS AND PRINCESSES... GOD, MAYBE SHE REALLY **IS** FROM ANOTHER WORLD...!
SO TELL ME...
JUST **WHO** ARE YOU?
WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO WITH THOSE MONSTERS AND THAT BUG-EYED GOLDFISH THING?!
WHY WERE YOU KILLING ALL THOSE SOLDIERS?!

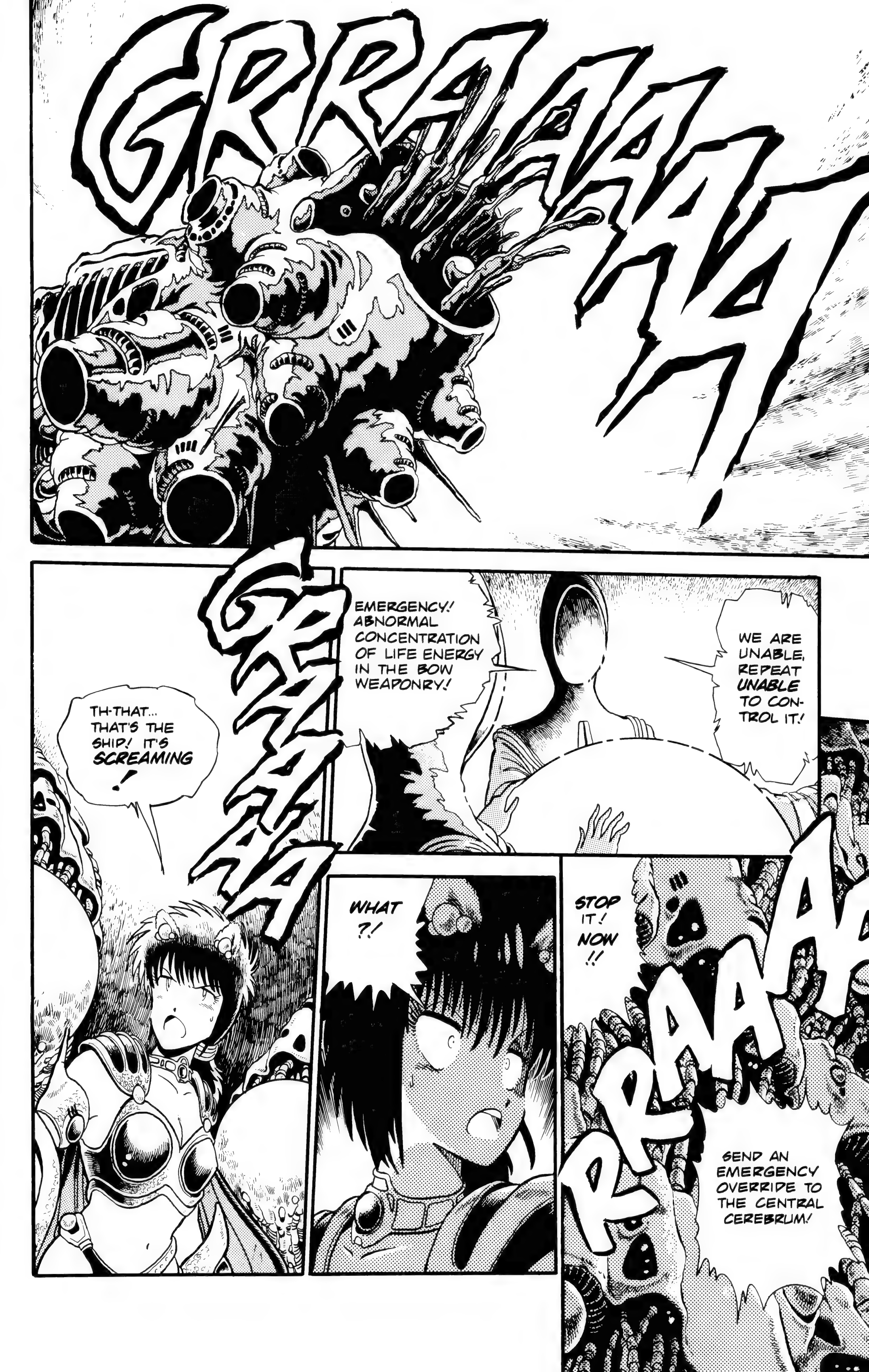

COME ON! I WANT TO KNOW!
IF I FIND OUT, MAYBE I'LL STOP HAVING THOSE GODAWFUL NIGHTMARES!
Ghk!
THAT'S ME, ISN'T IT...
GEE...DO YOU CREATURES KEEP RECORDS OF YOUR OPPONENTS IN BATTLE?
NO, NO! THAT'S JUST, I...
I THOUGHT YOU WERE CUTE, SO I...
"CUTE"...?
YOU THINK SO? REALLY?
OH, YEAH! FOR SURE! PRETTY, BEAUTIFUL, GORGEOUS!
REALLY...

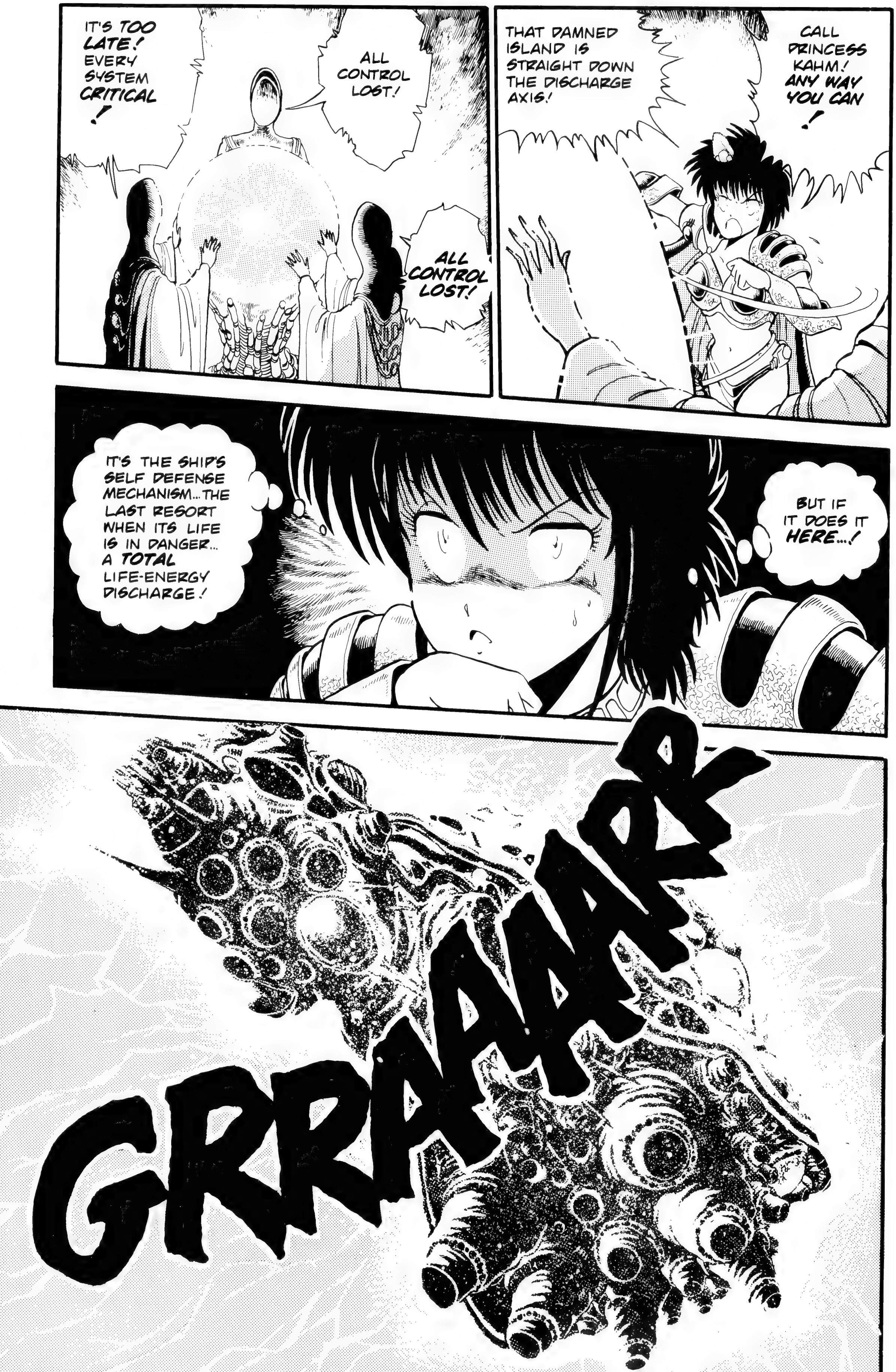

GREAT... SHE'S SOFTENING UP. NOW'S MY CHANCE...
OH, YEAH... THAT SWORD... IT'S **YOURS**, RIGHT?
LET ME GIVE IT BACK...
THAT ONE'S FOR **YOU** TO USE!
I SUFFERED THE DEGRADATION OF DEFEAT AT YOUR HANDS...
THE ONLY WAY TO RESTORE MY HONOR... IS TO KILL YOU IN BATTLE!
I WAS OVERCONFIDENT LAST TIME...
I WON'T MAKE THAT MISTAKE TWICE. THIS TIME...
I WILL **KILL** YOU!!

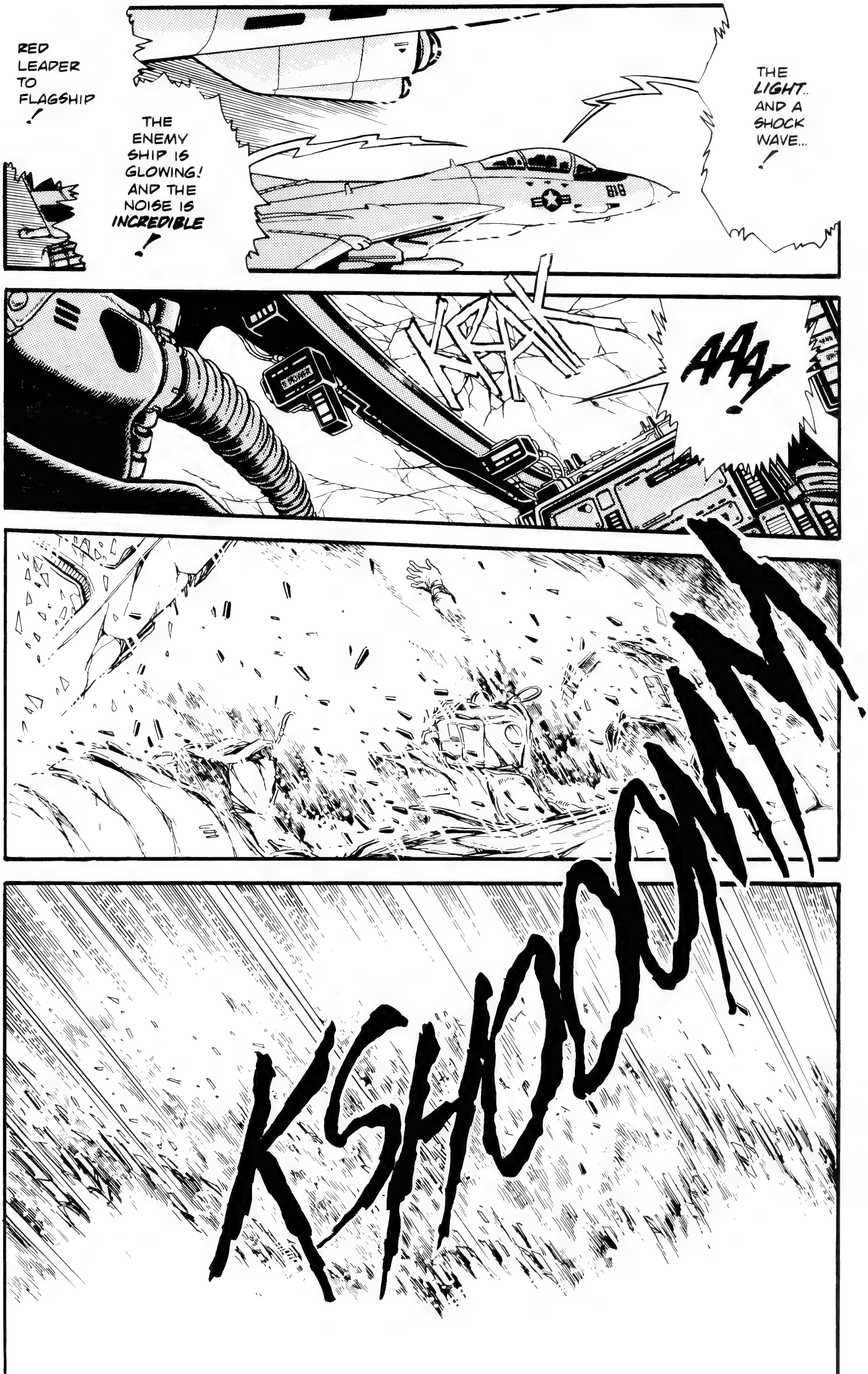

UNN
UNNUNN
UNN
40
NAVY
LADY BATTIA! THE PROBLEM IS BECOMING *CRITICAL!* THE DAMAGE IS AFFECTING THE BIOLOGICAL SUBSTRUCTURE...
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT *ME* TO DO ABOUT IT?!
WE CAN'T EVEN *TRACK,* MUCH LESS ENGAGE THE ENEMY!
HOW CAN THIS BE *HAPPENING TO ME?!*

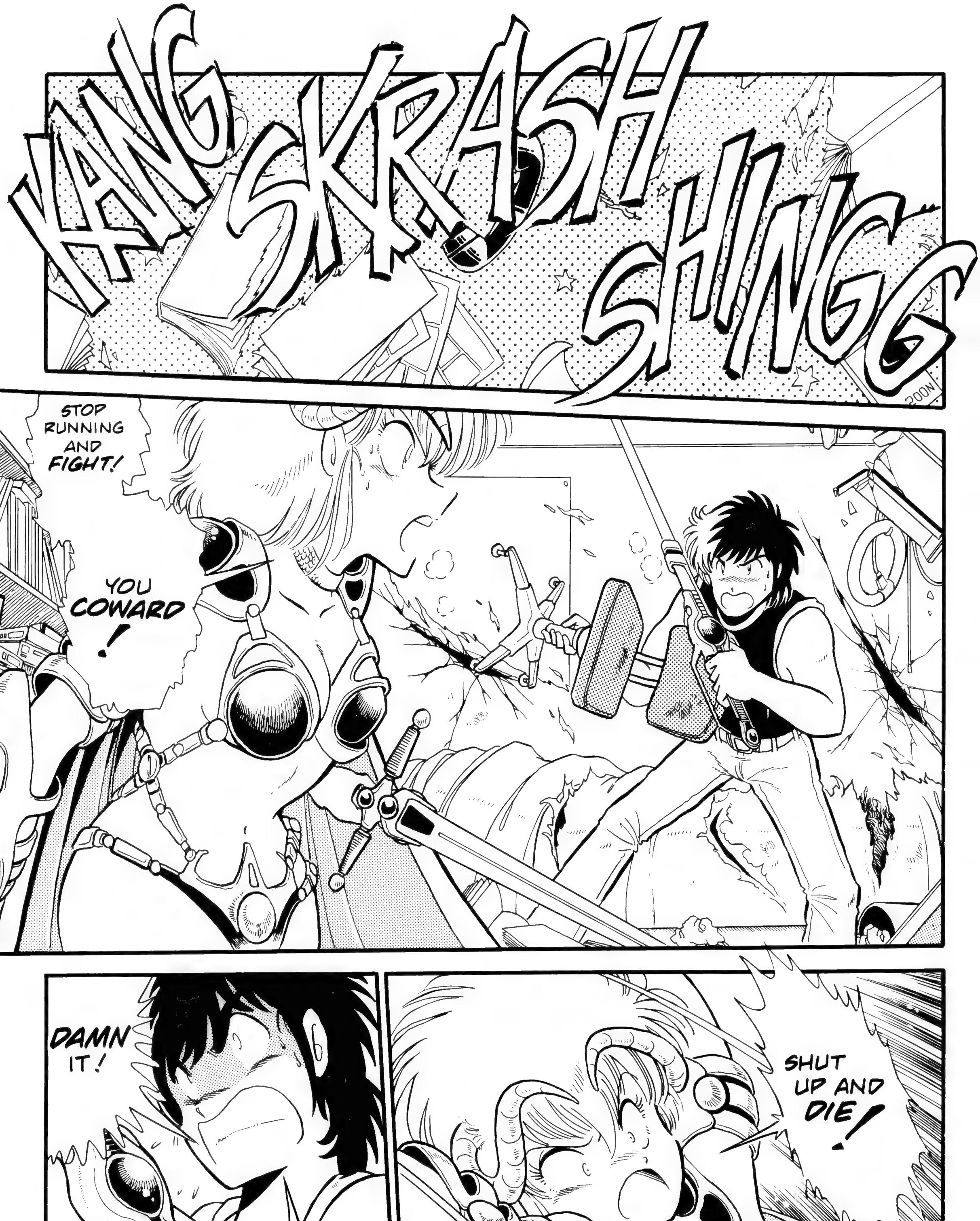

"THIS BATTLESHIP IS BIOENGINEERED FROM ONE OF THE GREAT SEA DRAGONS OF MERUNDEUS...ITS LIFE ENERGY IS NEAR-LIMITLESS... BUT IT'S STILL AN *ANIMAL*. IF IT'S DAMAGED *TOO* BADLY BY THE ENEMY, ITS SELF-REPAIR FUNCTIONS FALL BEHIND..."
"THAT'S WHY WE GENERATE A NULLSPACE SHIELD AROUND THE HULL."
"ANY ATTACK IS SWALLOWED BY THE SHIELD, AND NEVER REACHES THE SHIP ITSELF. THE NULLSPACE SHIELD HAS ALLOWED THE SANTOVASKU EMPIRE TO ADVANCE THROUGH THE UNIVERSE AS THOUGH WE MARCHED ACROSS AN EMPTY FIELD..."
FIRST-CLASS OFFICERS LIKE ME GENERATE THE SHIELD...
WHICH MUST MEAN--SOMEONE ON THIS PLANET HAS POWERS EVEN ***GREATER*** THAN MY OWN!
REAGAN, REAGAN, DO YOU READ?
805
ENEMY MOTHER SHIP HAS TAKEN HEAVY DAMAGE, IS LOSING SPEED AND ALTITUDE!

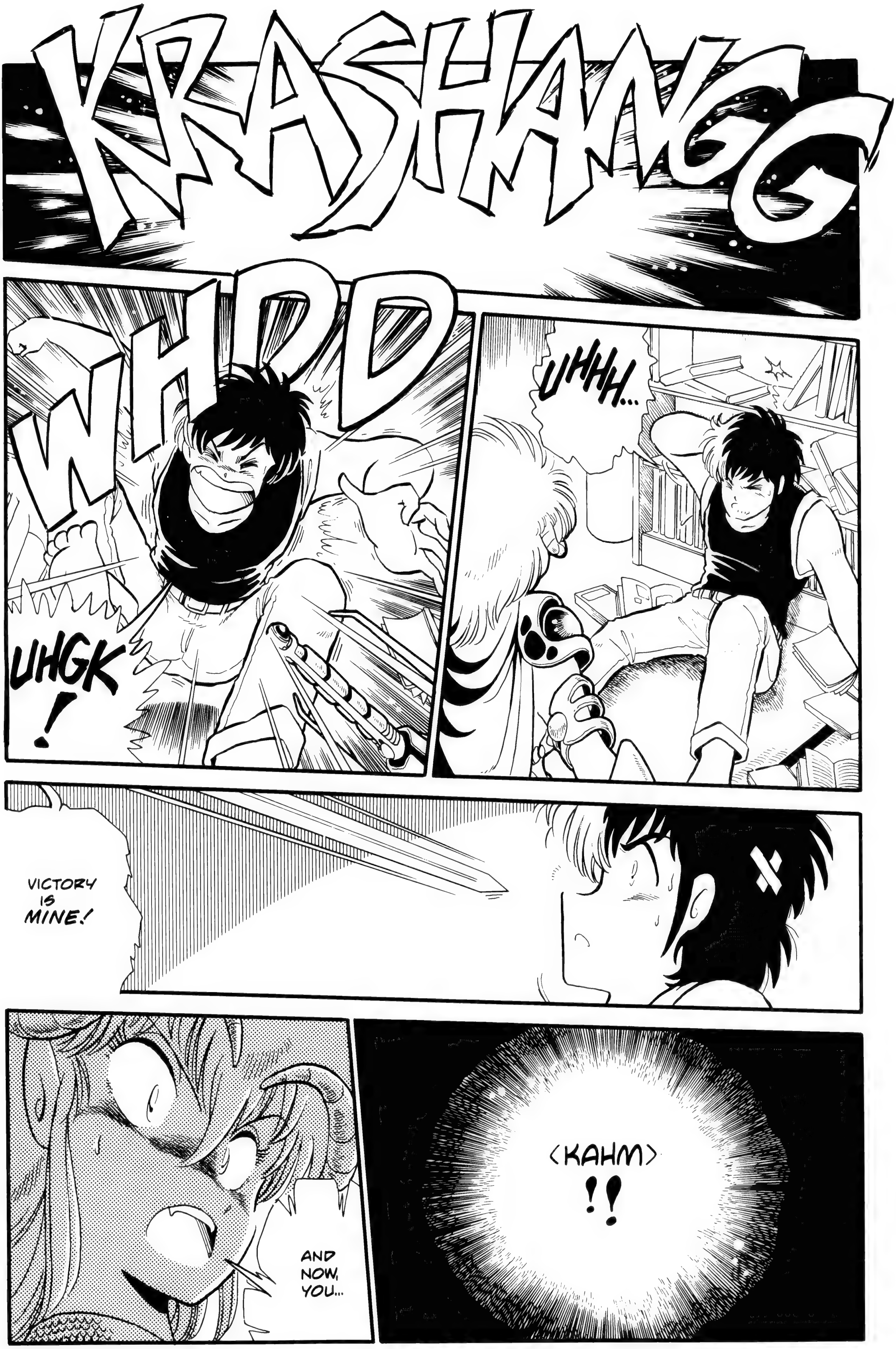

WHAT?! HEAVY DAMAGE? YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY SURE?!
IT'S GOING DOWN!
MUELLER DID IT!
TOKYO'S SAFE!
Mmm...
GENTLEMEN, WE OWE ALL THIS TO GREAT LEADER NEO!
INCREDIBLE!
THAT SHIP WITHSTOOD A FULL NUCLEAR ATTACK... AND HE HAS LEFT IT POWERLESS.
OF COURSE, BECAUSE OF THAT POWER...
...HE'S BECOME RULER OF THIS ENTIRE PLANET!

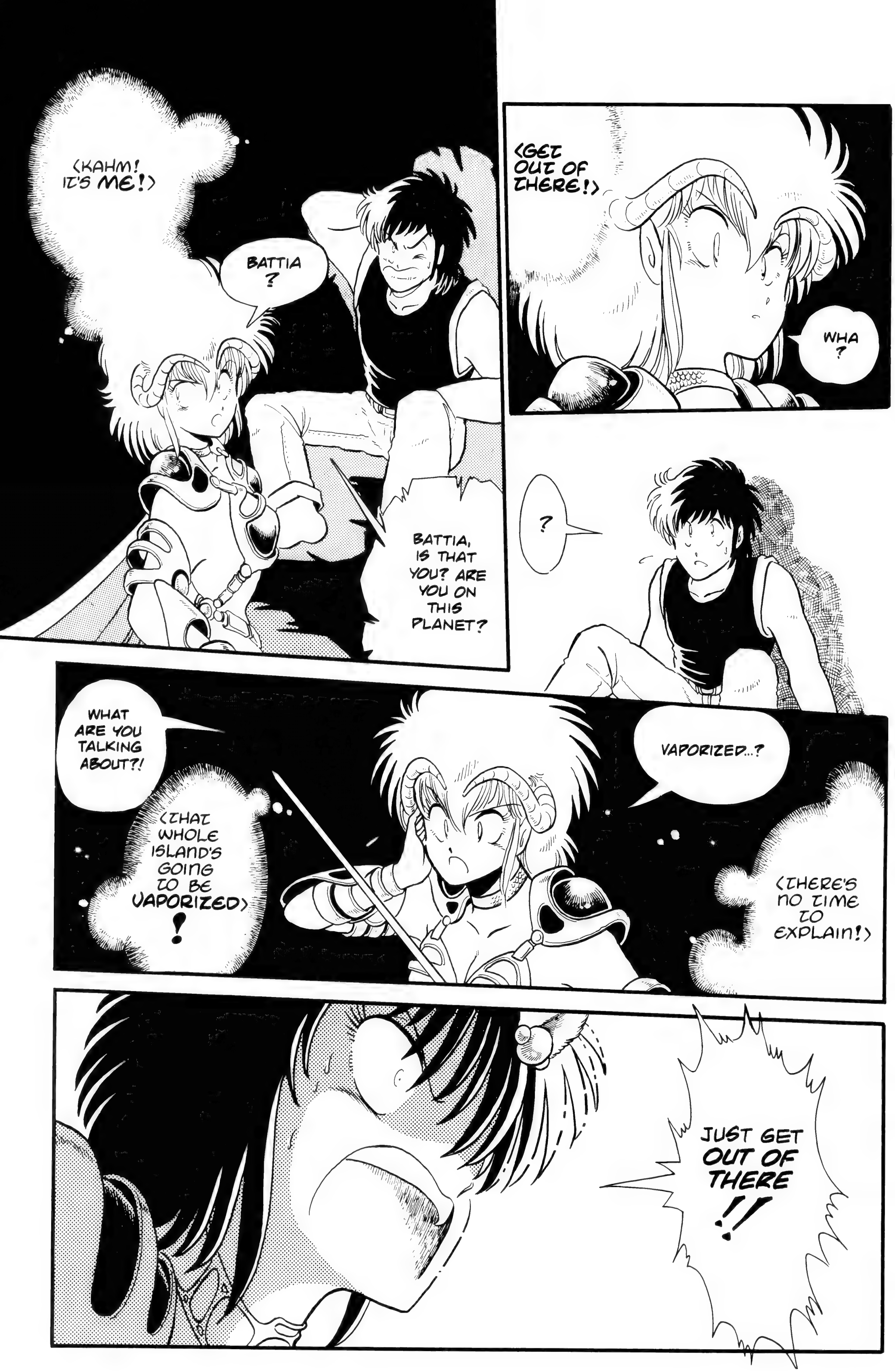

GRRAAAAAAA!
GRAAAAAA
TH-THAT... THAT'S THE SHIP! IT'S *SCREAMING*!
EMERGENCY! ABNORMAL CONCENTRATION OF LIFE ENERGY IN THE BOW WEAPONRY!
WE ARE UNABLE, REPEAT *UNABLE* TO CONTROL IT!
WHAT?!
STOP IT! NOW!!
RAAAA
SEND AN EMERGENCY OVERRIDE TO THE CENTRAL CEREBRUM!

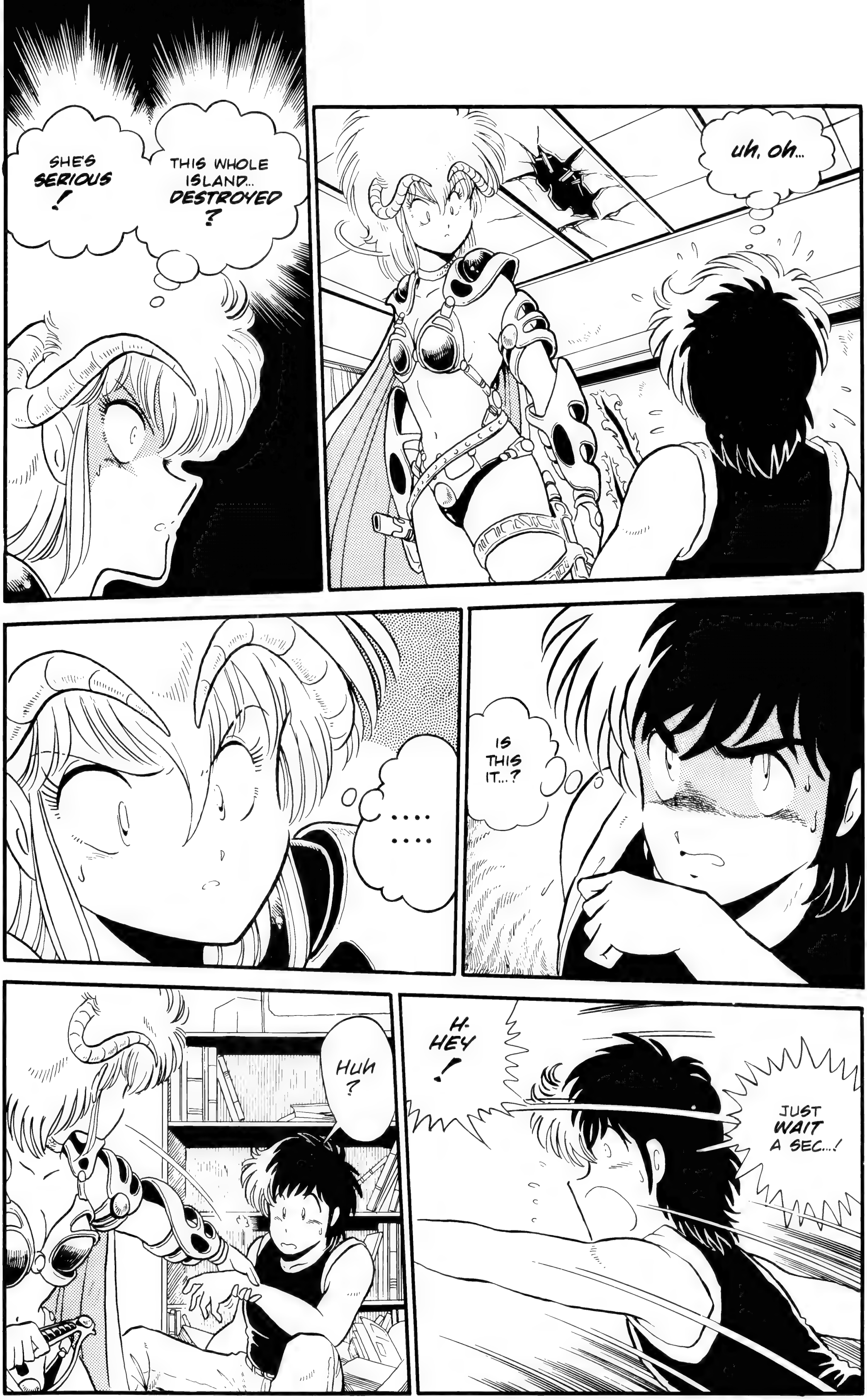

IT'S TOO LATE! EVERY SYSTEM CRITICAL!
ALL CONTROL LOST!
ALL CONTROL LOST!
THAT DAMNED ISLAND IS STRAIGHT DOWN THE DISCHARGE AXIS!
CALL PRINCESS KAHM! ANY WAY YOU CAN!
IT'S THE SHIP'S SELF DEFENSE MECHANISM...THE LAST RESORT WHEN ITS LIFE IS IN DANGER... A TOTAL LIFE-ENERGY DISCHARGE!
BUT IF IT DOES IT HERE...!
GRRAAAARK

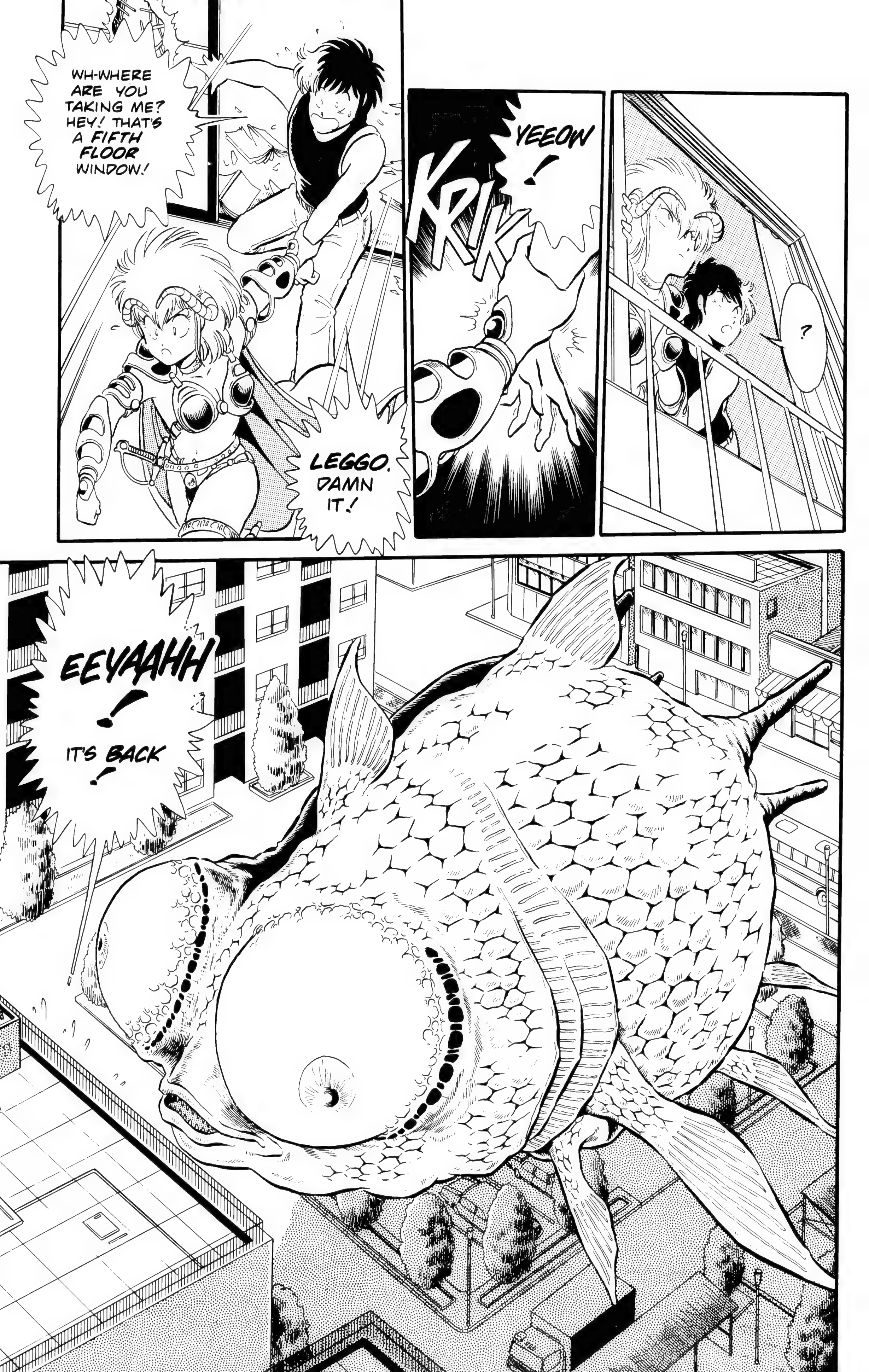

RED LEADER TO FLAGSHIP!
THE ENEMY SHIP IS GLOWING! AND THE NOISE IS *INCREDIBLE*!
THE *LIGHT*... AND A SHOCK WAVE...!
KRAK
AAA!
KSHOOOM!

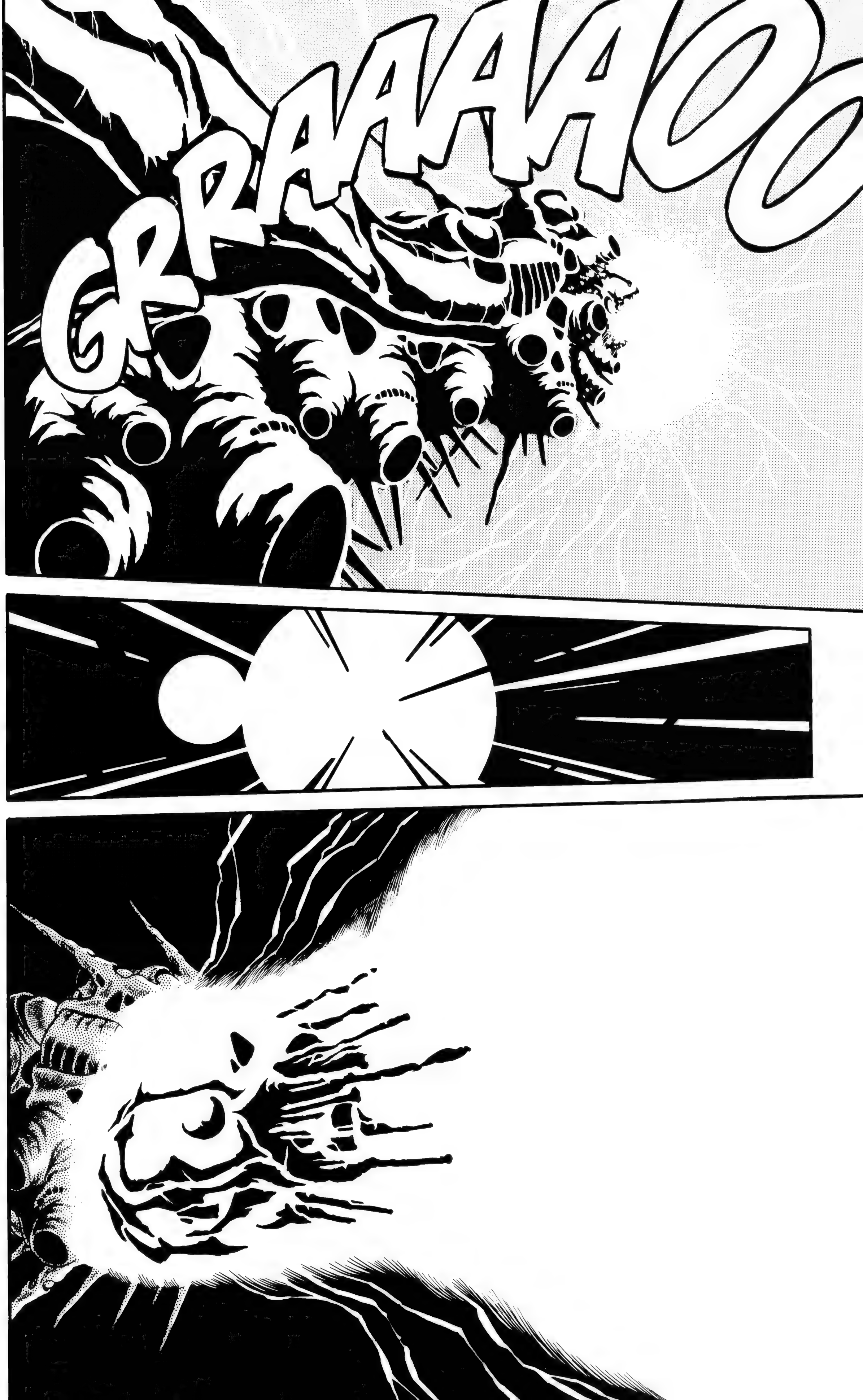

KANG
SKRASH
SHINGG
STOP RUNNING AND FIGHT!
YOU COWARD!
DAMN IT!
I SAID I'D GIVE YOU YOUR STUPID SWORD!
SHUT UP AND DIE!

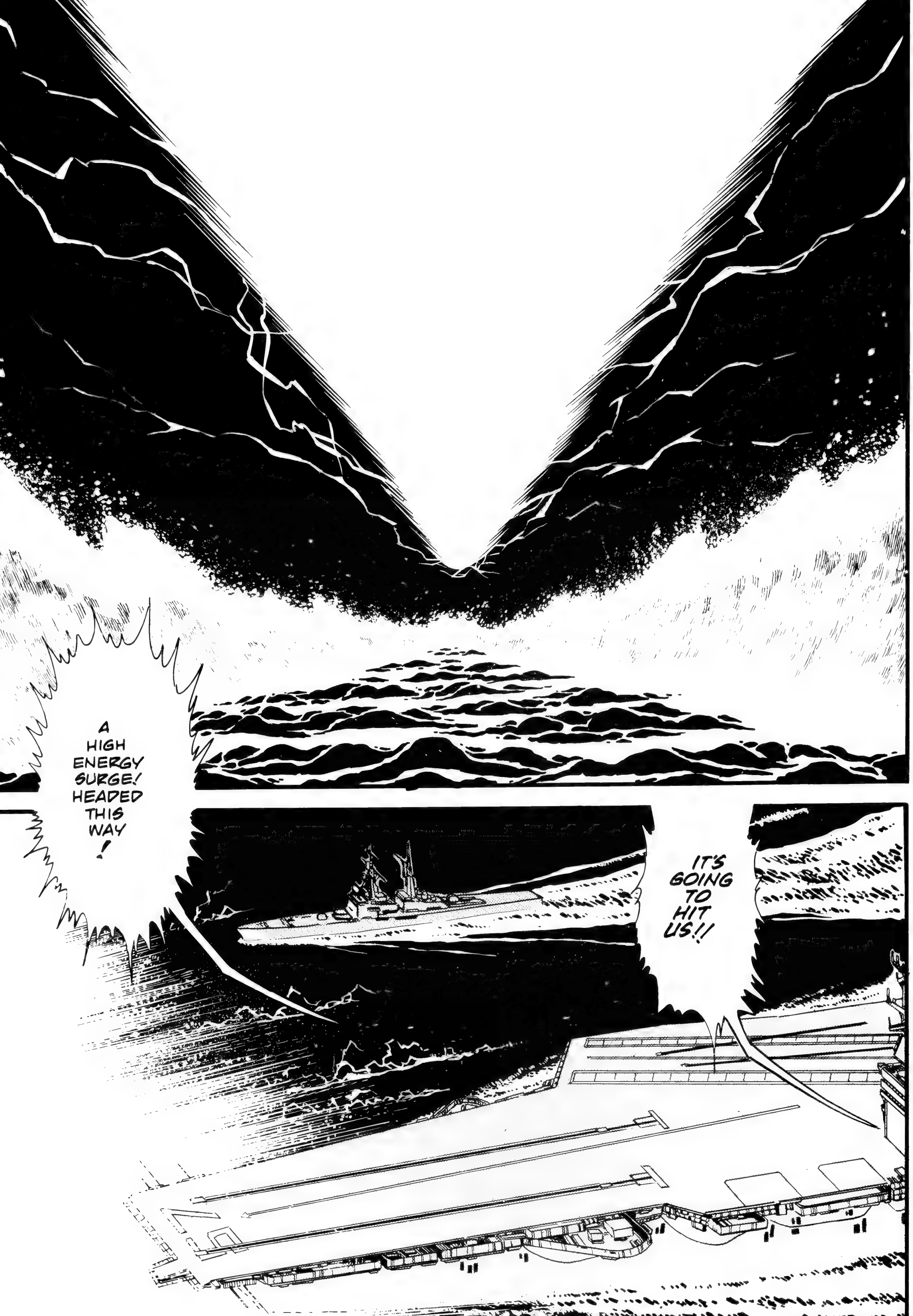

KRASHANGG
WHDD
UHGK!
UHHH...
VICTORY IS MINE!
AND NOW, YOU...
〈KAHM〉 !!

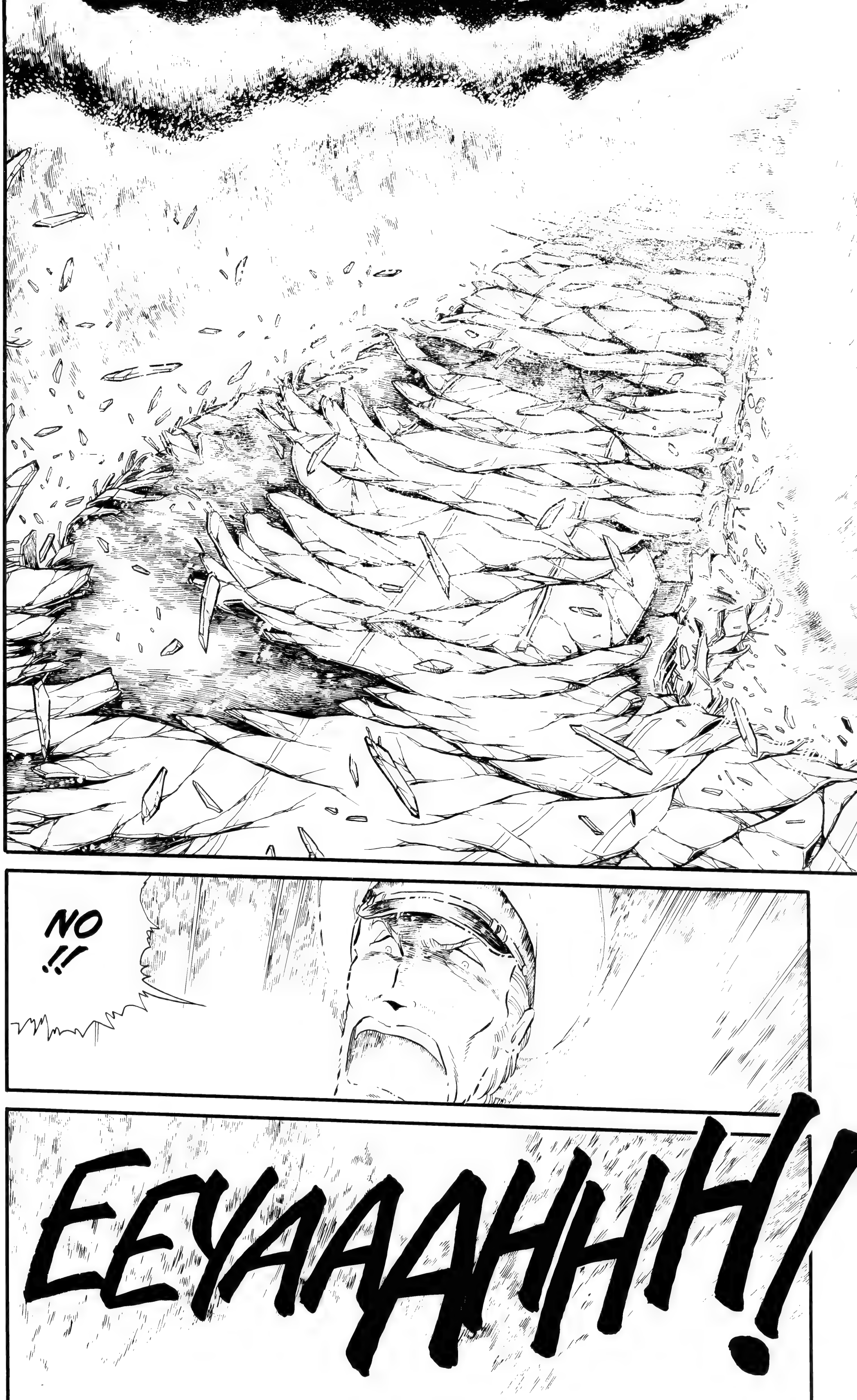

〈KAHM! IT'S ME!〉
BATTIA?
BATTIA, IS THAT YOU? ARE YOU ON THIS PLANET?
〈GET OUT OF THERE!〉
WHA?
?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
〈THAT WHOLE ISLAND'S GOING TO BE VAPORIZED〉!
VAPORIZED...?
〈THERE'S NO TIME TO EXPLAIN!〉
JUST GET OUT OF THERE!!

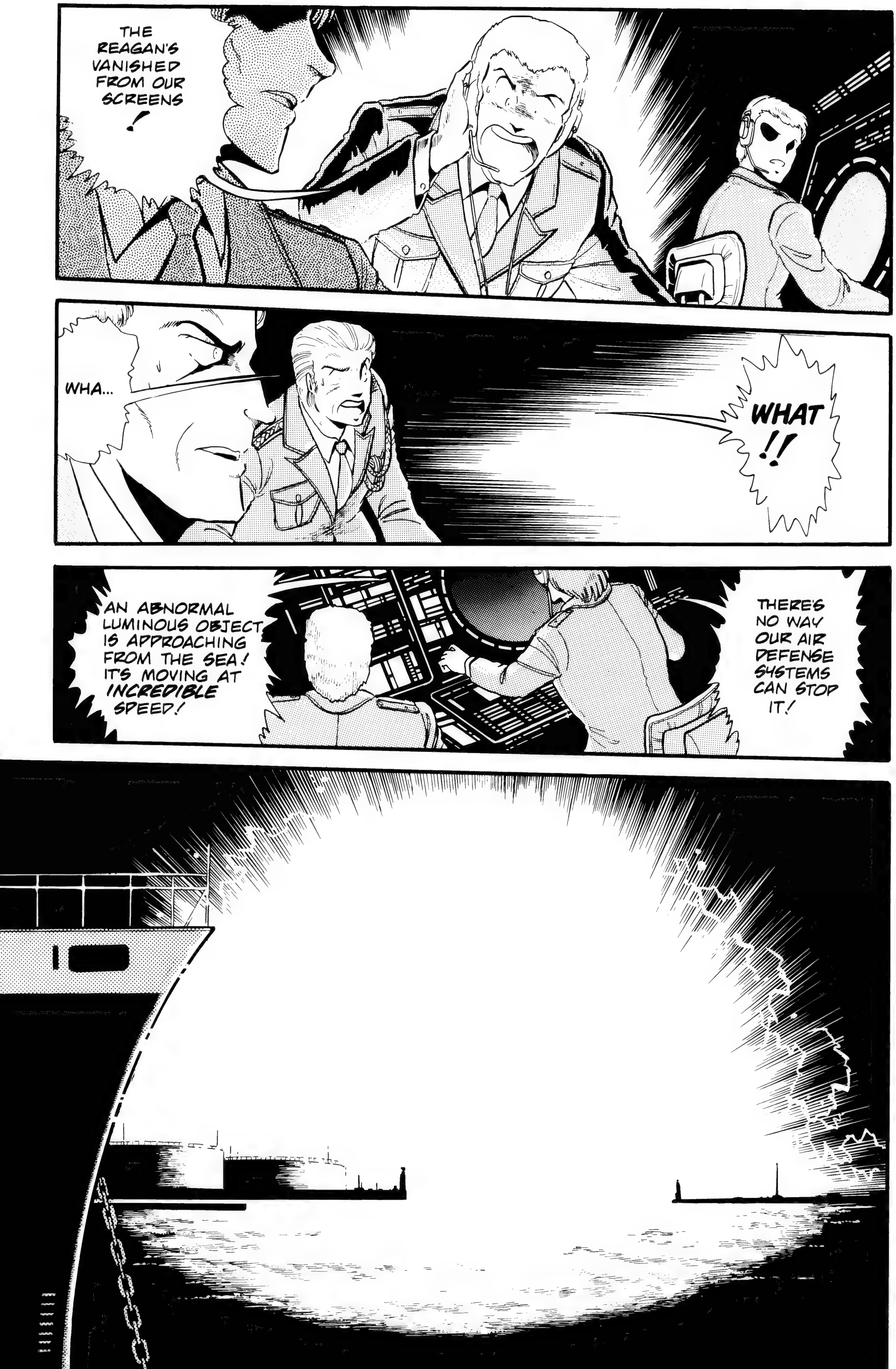

SHE'S SERIOUS!
THIS WHOLE ISLAND... DESTROYED?
uh, oh...
....
....
IS THIS IT...?
Huh?
H-HEY!
JUST WAIT A SEC...!


WH-WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME? HEY! THAT'S A FIFTH FLOOR WINDOW!
LEGGO. DAMN IT!
KRIK
YEEOW!
?
EEYAAHH!
IT'S BACK!

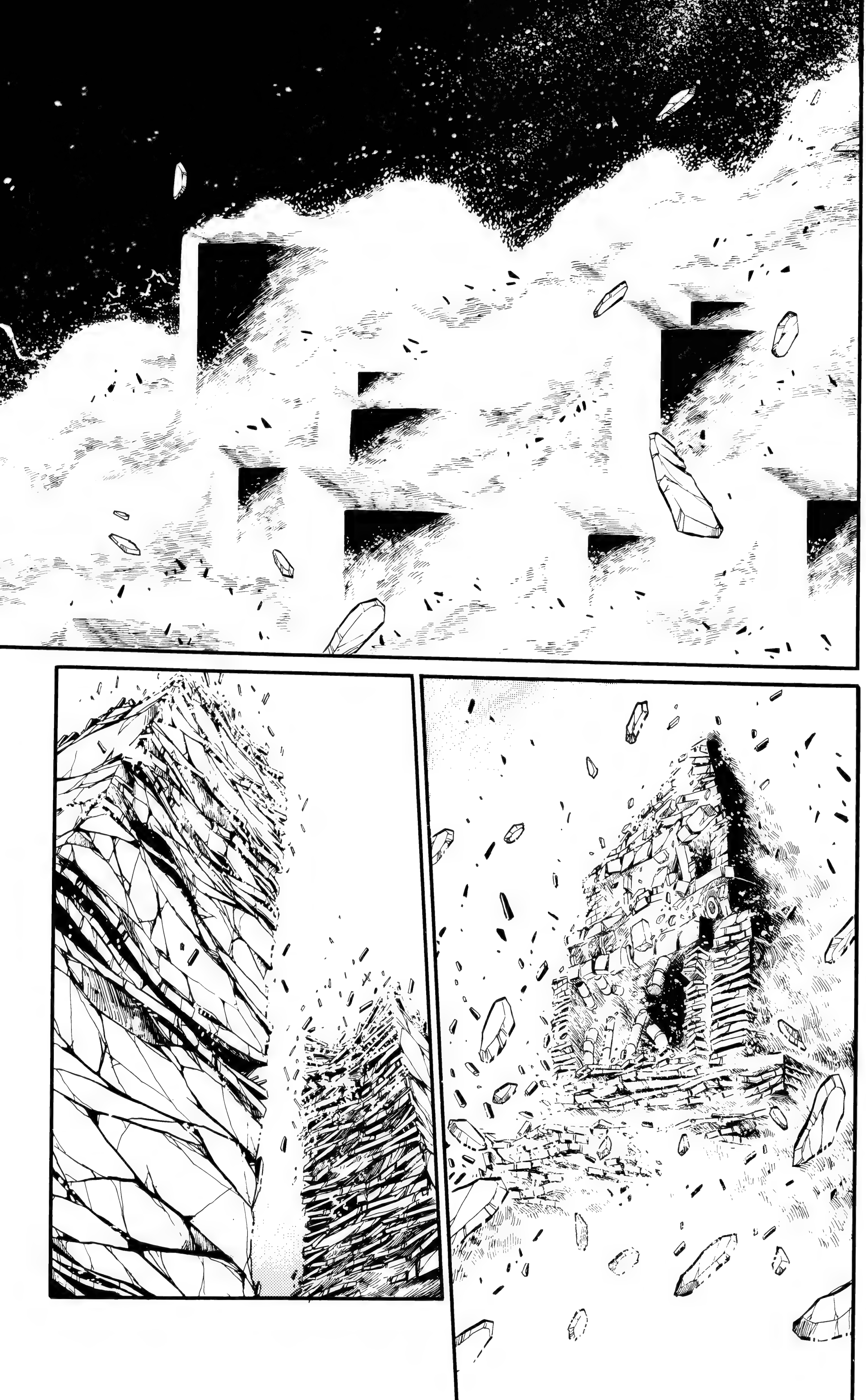

GRRAAAAAOO

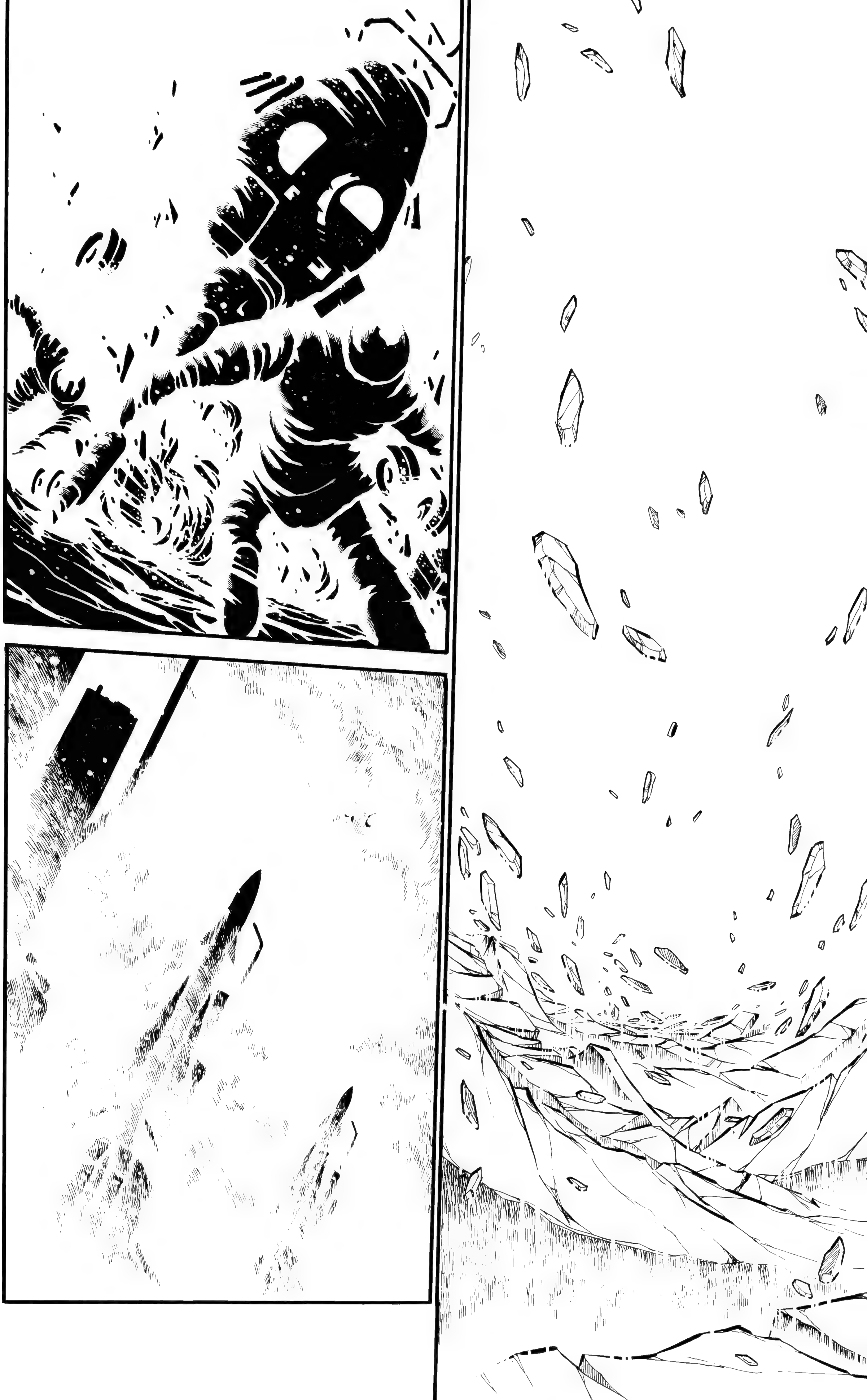

A HIGH ENERGY SURGE! HEADED THIS WAY!
IT'S GOING TO HIT US!!

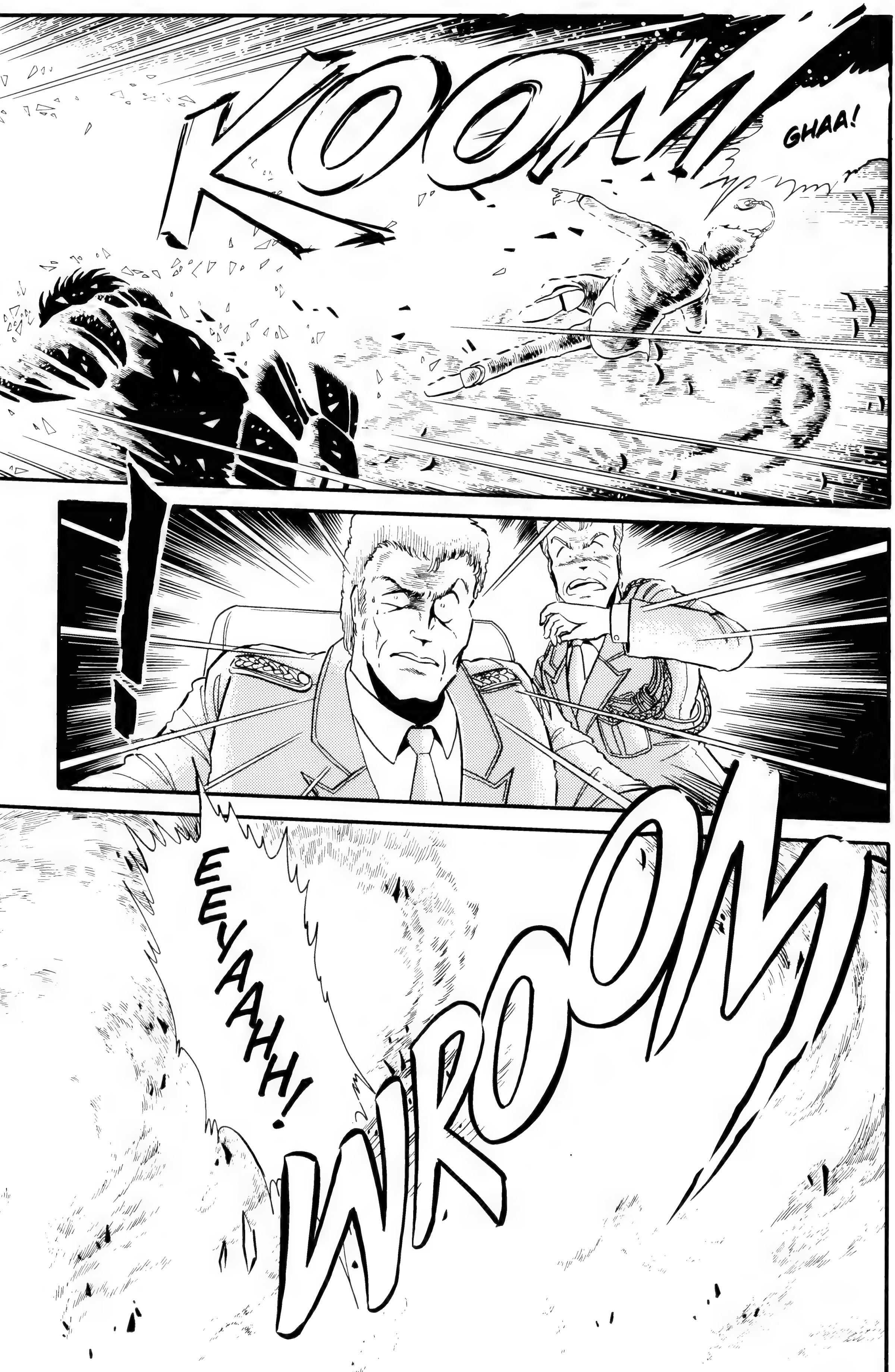

NO !!
EEYAAAHHH!!

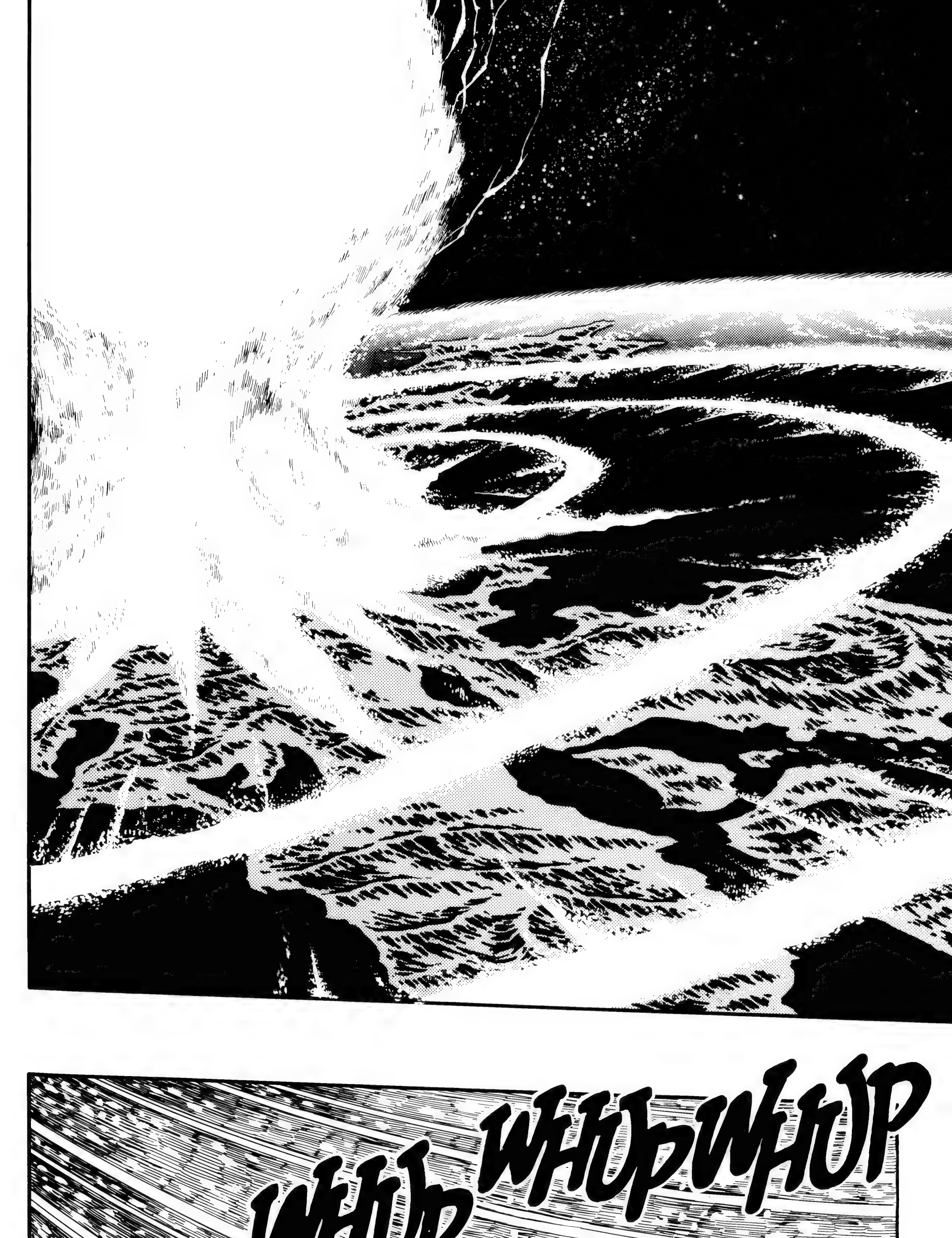

THE REAGAN'S VANISHED FROM OUR SCREENS!
WHA...
WHAT!!
AN ABNORMAL LUMINOUS OBJECT IS APPROACHING FROM THE SEA! IT'S MOVING AT *INCREDIBLE* SPEED!
THERE'S NO WAY OUR AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS CAN STOP IT!

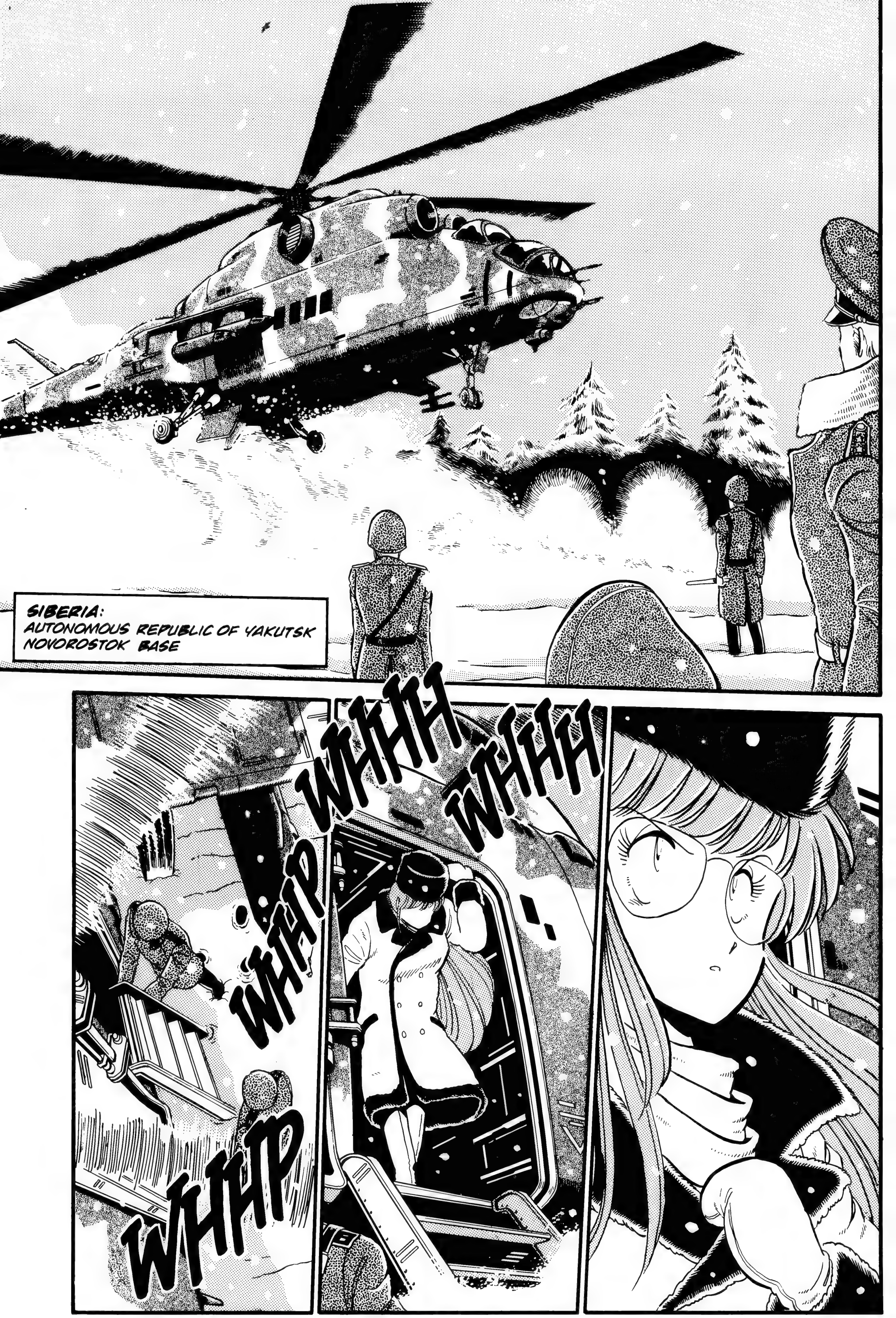
WHOOM!

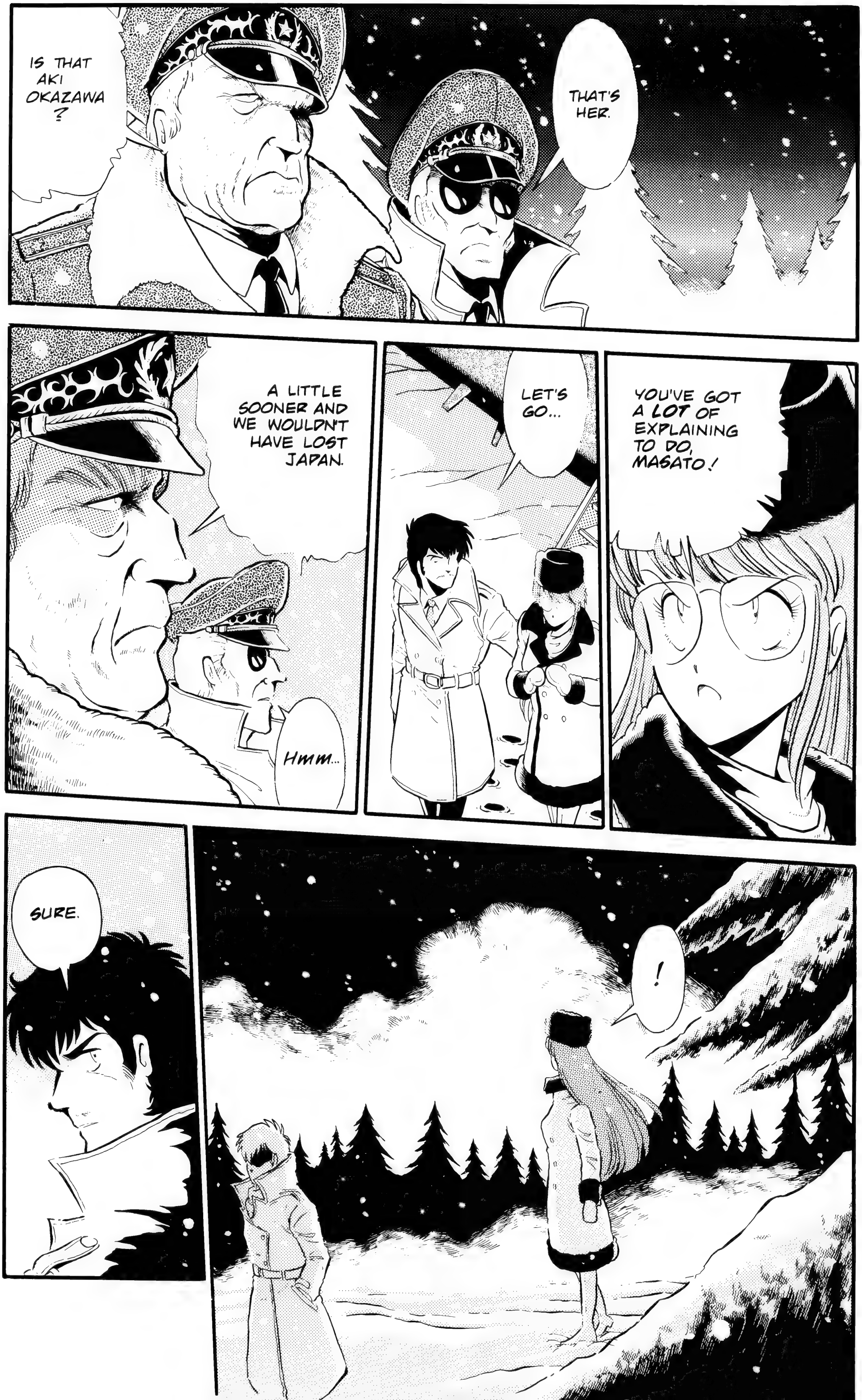


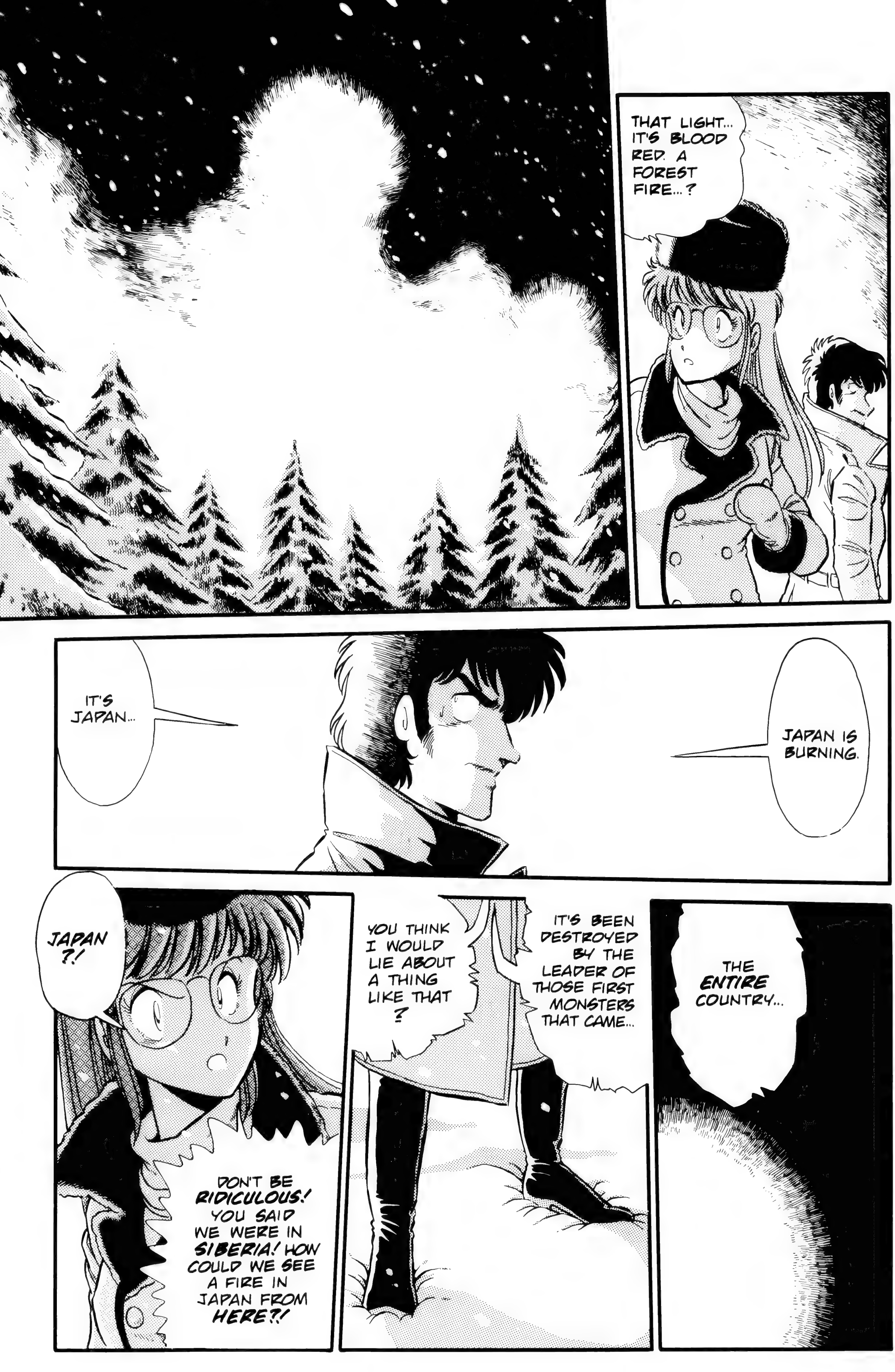


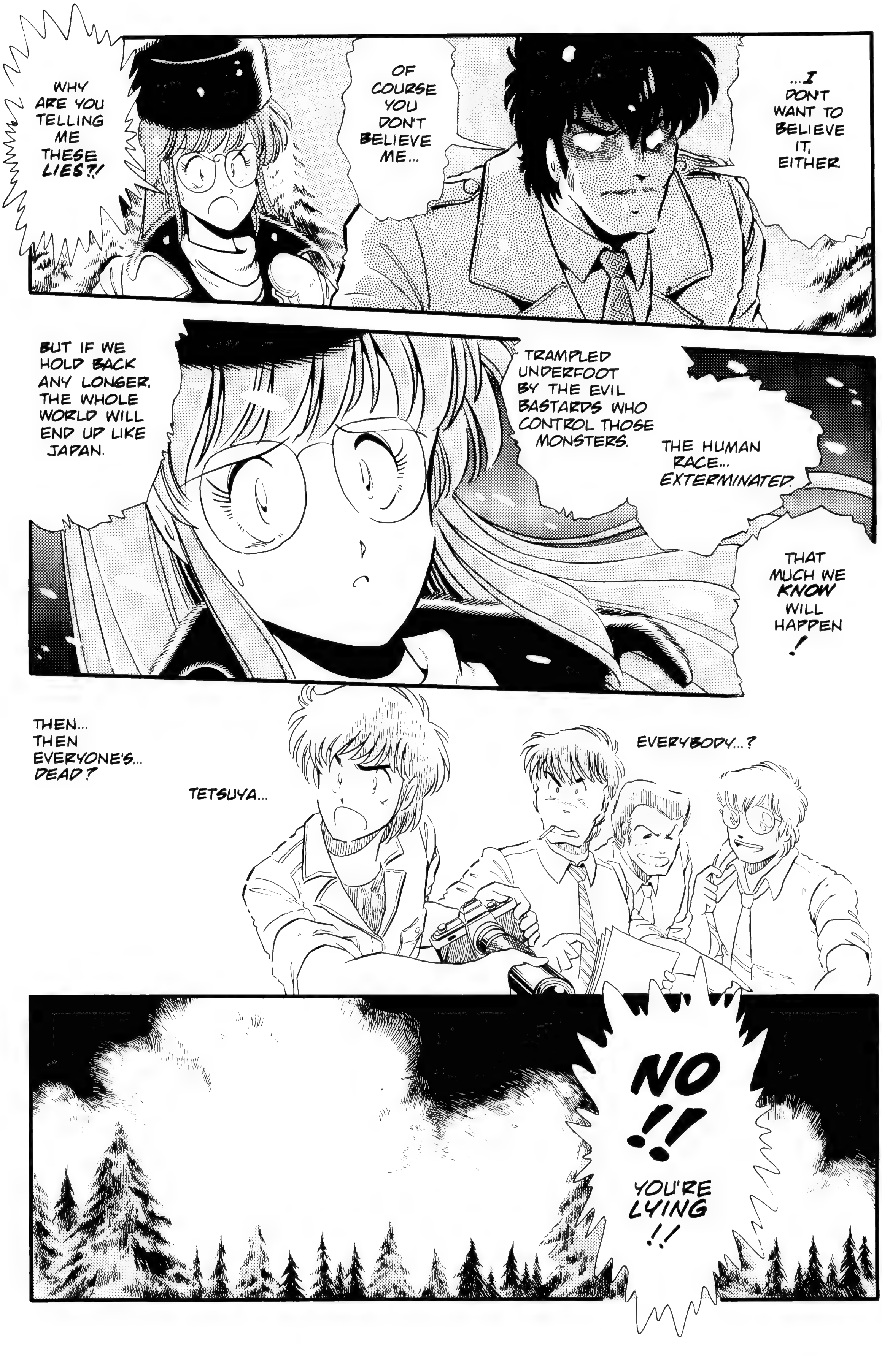

KOOM
GHAA!
!
EEYAAHH!
WROOM

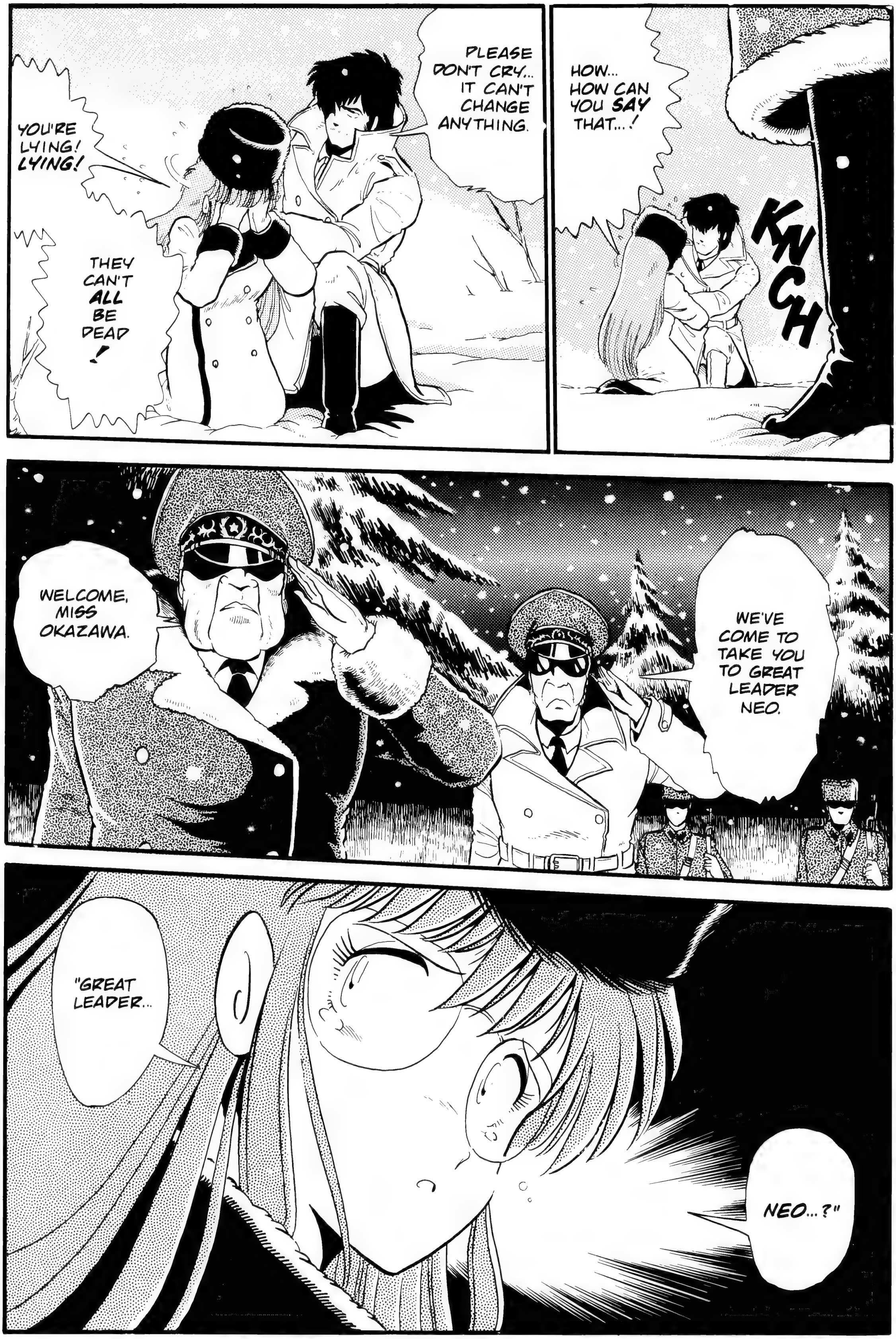

WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP


SIBERIA:
AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF YAKUTSK
NOVOROSTOK BASE
WHHHH
WHHHH
WHIP
WHIP


IS THAT AKI OKAZAWA ?
THAT'S HER.
A LITTLE SOONER AND WE WOULDN'T HAVE LOST JAPAN.
Hmm...
LET'S GO...
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO, MASATO !
SURE.
!

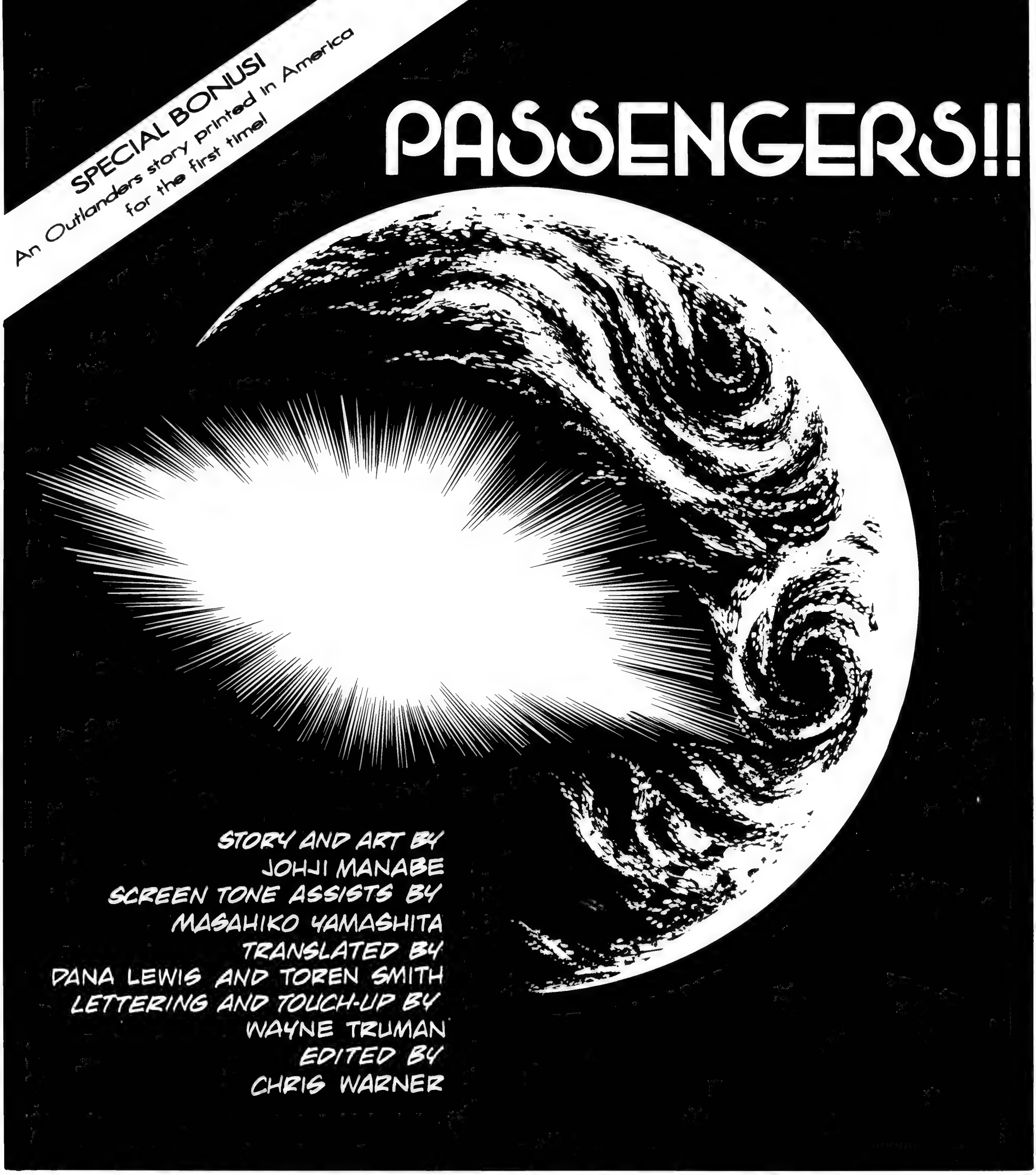

THAT LIGHT... IT'S BLOOD RED. A FOREST FIRE...?
IT'S JAPAN...
JAPAN IS BURNING.
JAPAN?!
DON'T BE **RIDICULOUS!** YOU SAID WE WERE IN **SIBERIA!** HOW COULD WE SEE A FIRE IN JAPAN FROM **HERE?!**
YOU THINK I WOULD LIE ABOUT A THING LIKE THAT?
IT'S BEEN DESTROYED BY THE LEADER OF THOSE FIRST MONSTERS THAT CAME...
THE **ENTIRE** COUNTRY...


WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THESE *LIES?!*
OF COURSE YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME...
...I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT, EITHER.
BUT IF WE HOLD BACK ANY LONGER, THE WHOLE WORLD WILL END UP LIKE JAPAN.
TRAMPLED UNDERFOOT BY THE EVIL BASTARDS WHO CONTROL THOSE MONSTERS.
THE HUMAN RACE... EXTERMINATED.
THAT MUCH WE *KNOW* WILL HAPPEN!
THEN... THEN EVERYONE'S... *DEAD?*
TETSUYA...
EVERYBODY...?
NO!!
YOU'RE LYING!!

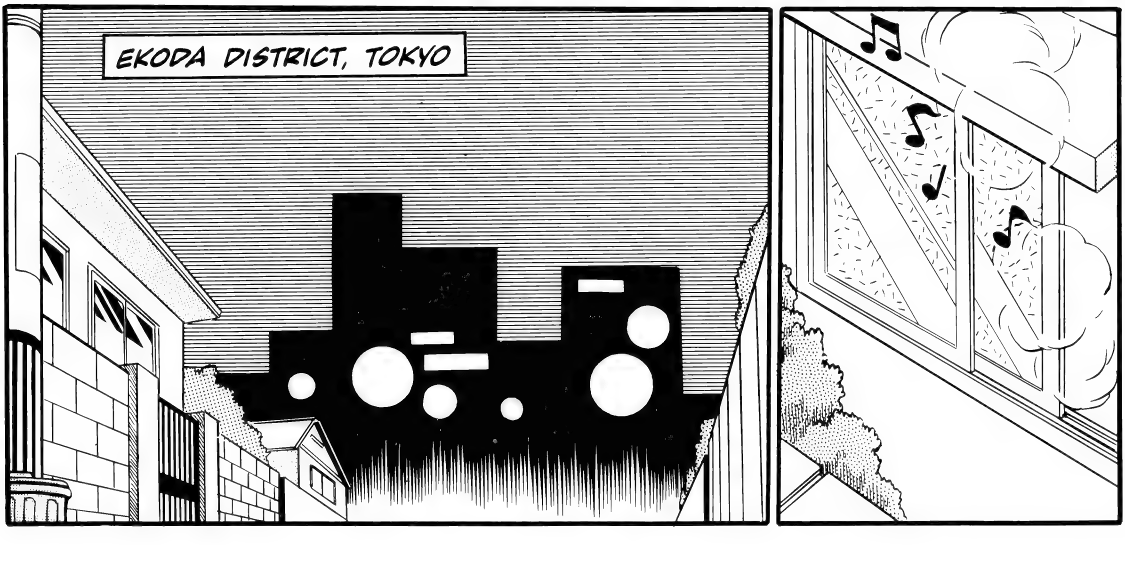

YOU'RE LYING! **LYING!**
THEY CAN'T **ALL** BE DEAD!
PLEASE DON'T CRY... IT CAN'T CHANGE ANYTHING.
HOW... HOW CAN YOU **SAY** THAT...!
KNCH
WELCOME, MISS OKAZAWA.
WE'VE COME TO TAKE YOU TO GREAT LEADER NEO.
"GREAT LEADER...
NEO...?"

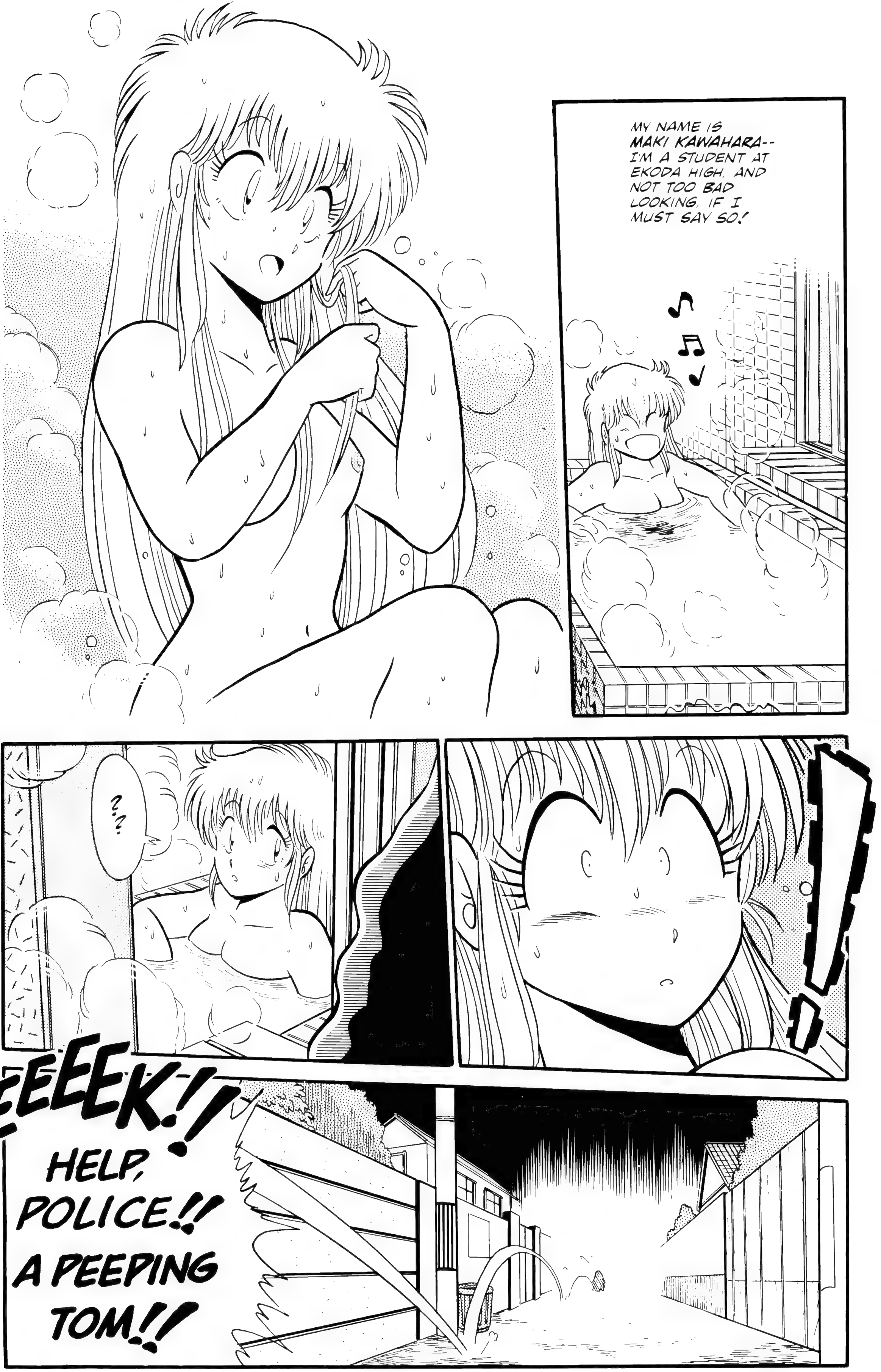
SPECIAL BONUS!
An Outlanders story printed in America for the first time!

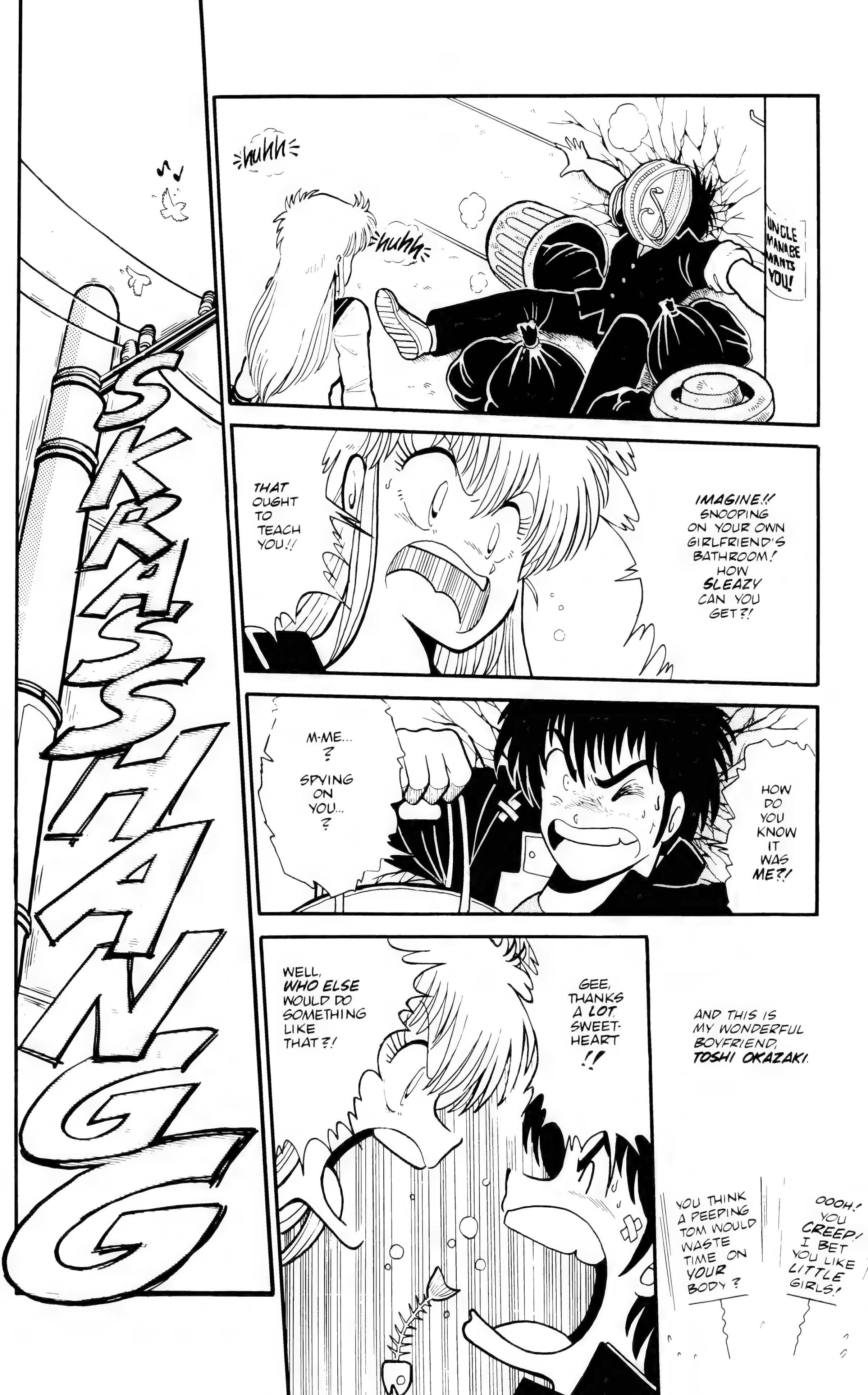
PASSENGERS!!

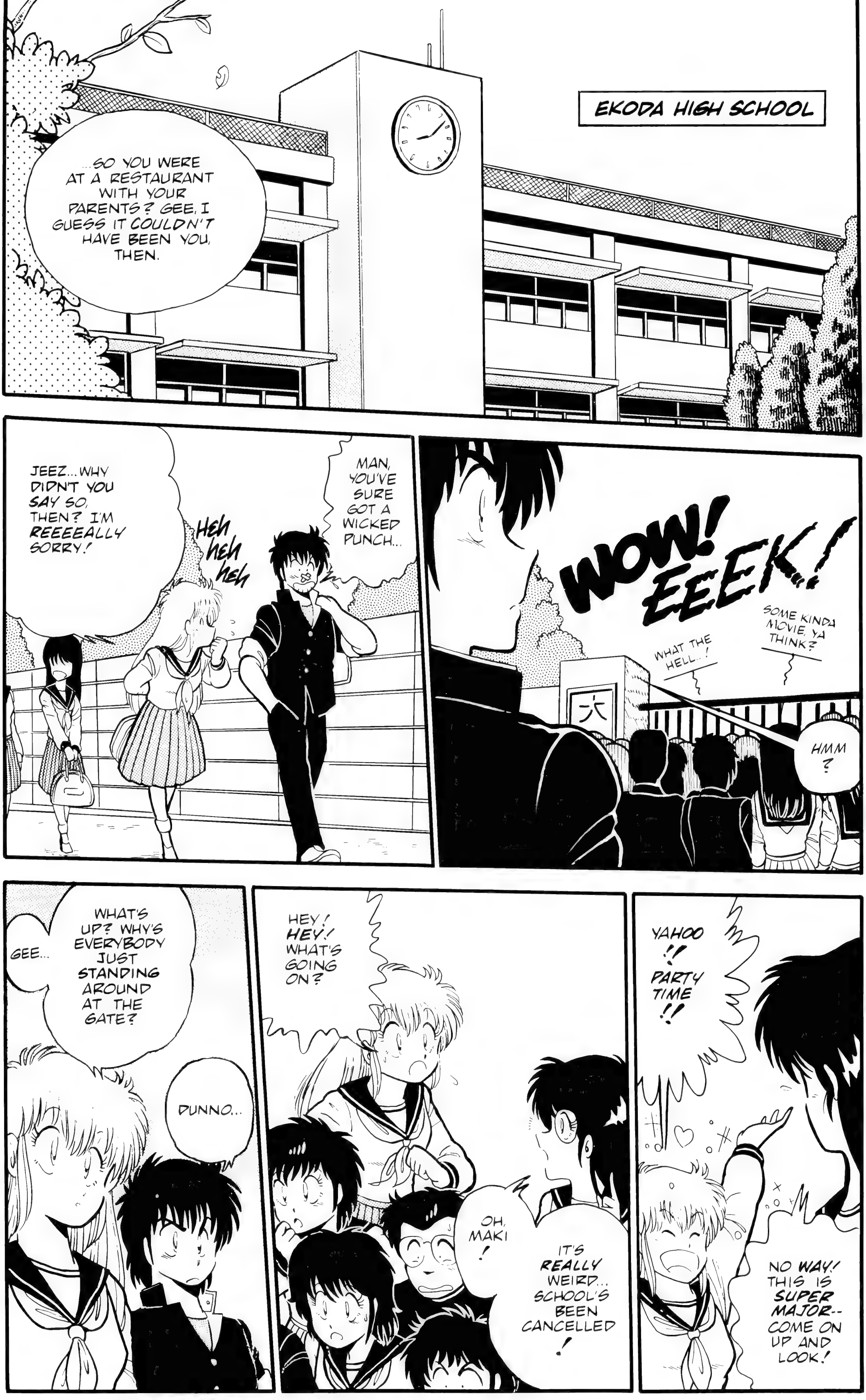


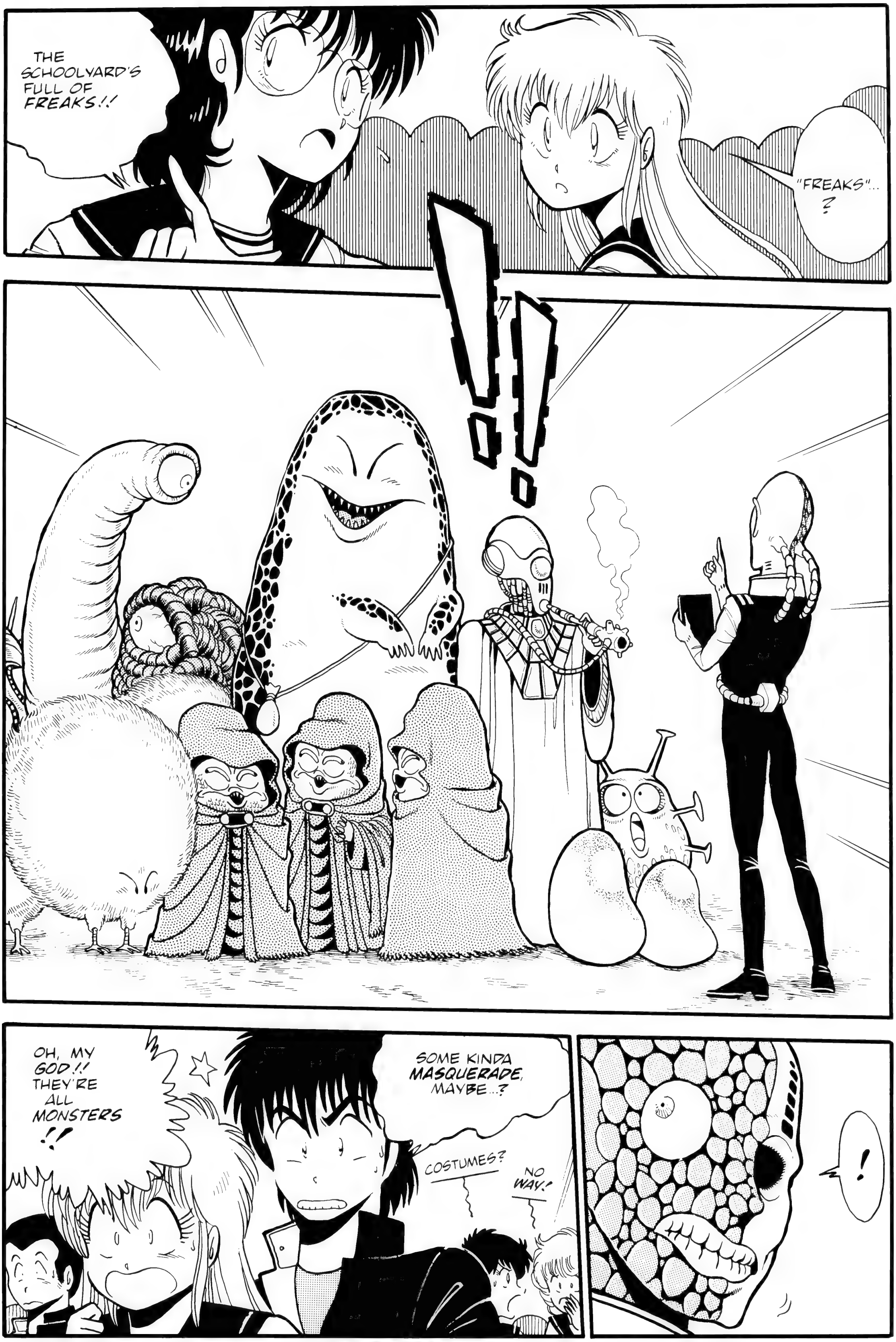
STORY AND ART BY
JOHJI MANABE
SCREEN TONE ASSISTS BY
MASAHIKO YAMASHITA
TRANSLATED BY
DANA LEWIS AND TOREN SMITH
LETTERING AND TOUCH-UP BY
WAYNE TRUMAN
EDITED BY
CHRIS WARNER

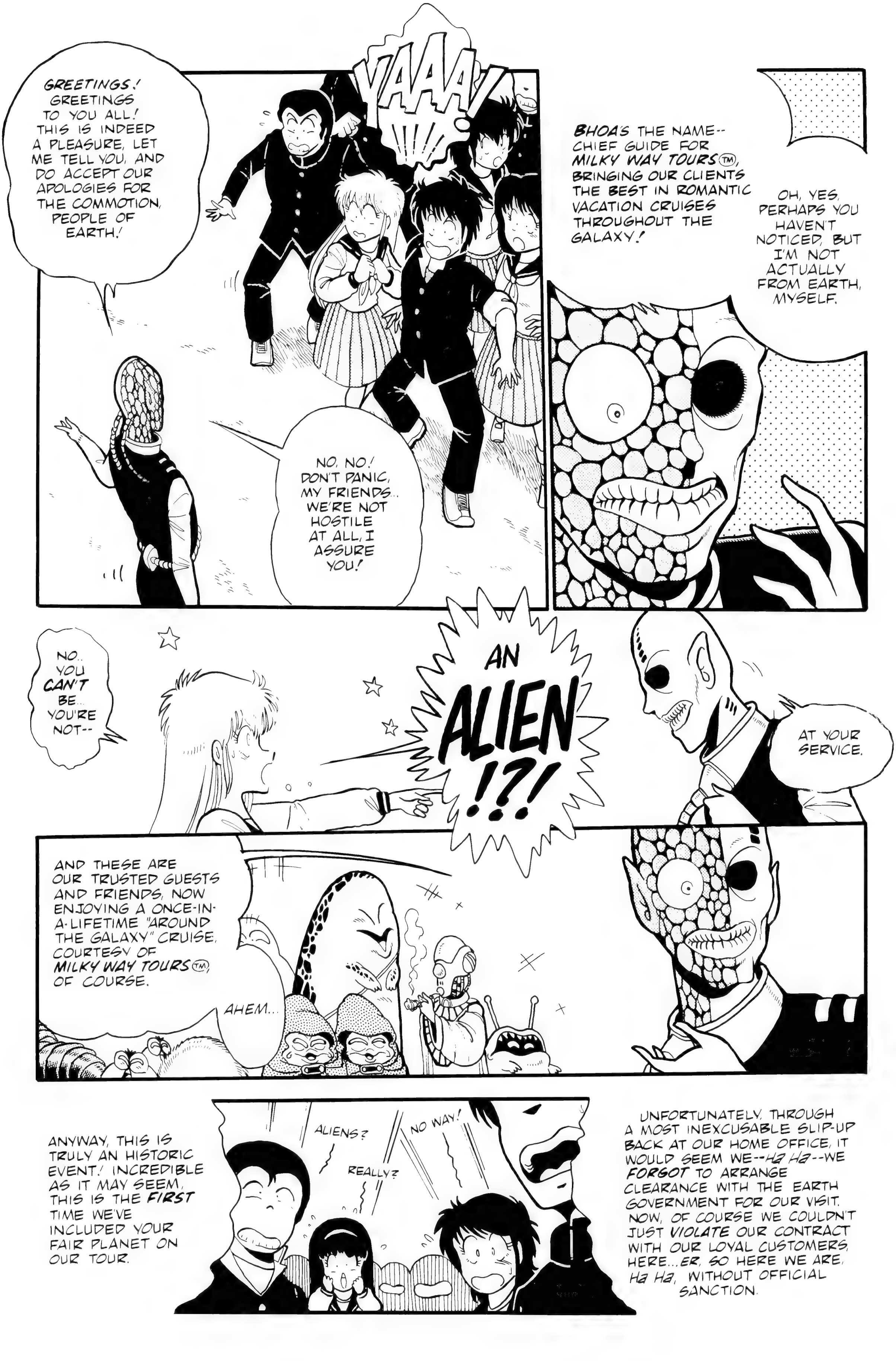


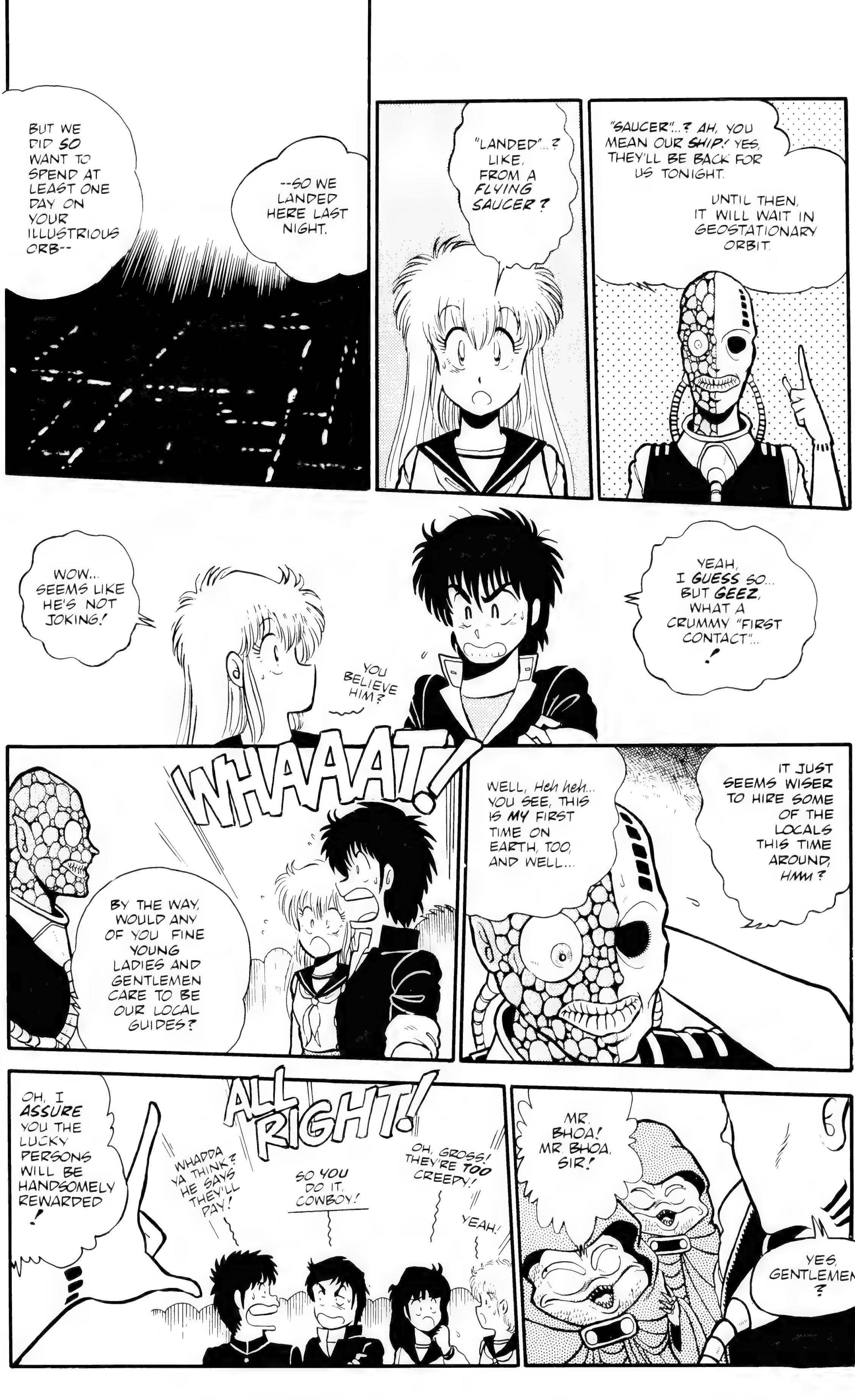

MY NAME IS MAKI KAWAHARA-- I'M A STUDENT AT EKODA HIGH, AND NOT TOO BAD LOOKING, IF I MUST SAY SO!
?.?
!
EEEEK!!
HELP, POLICE!! A PEEPING TOM!!

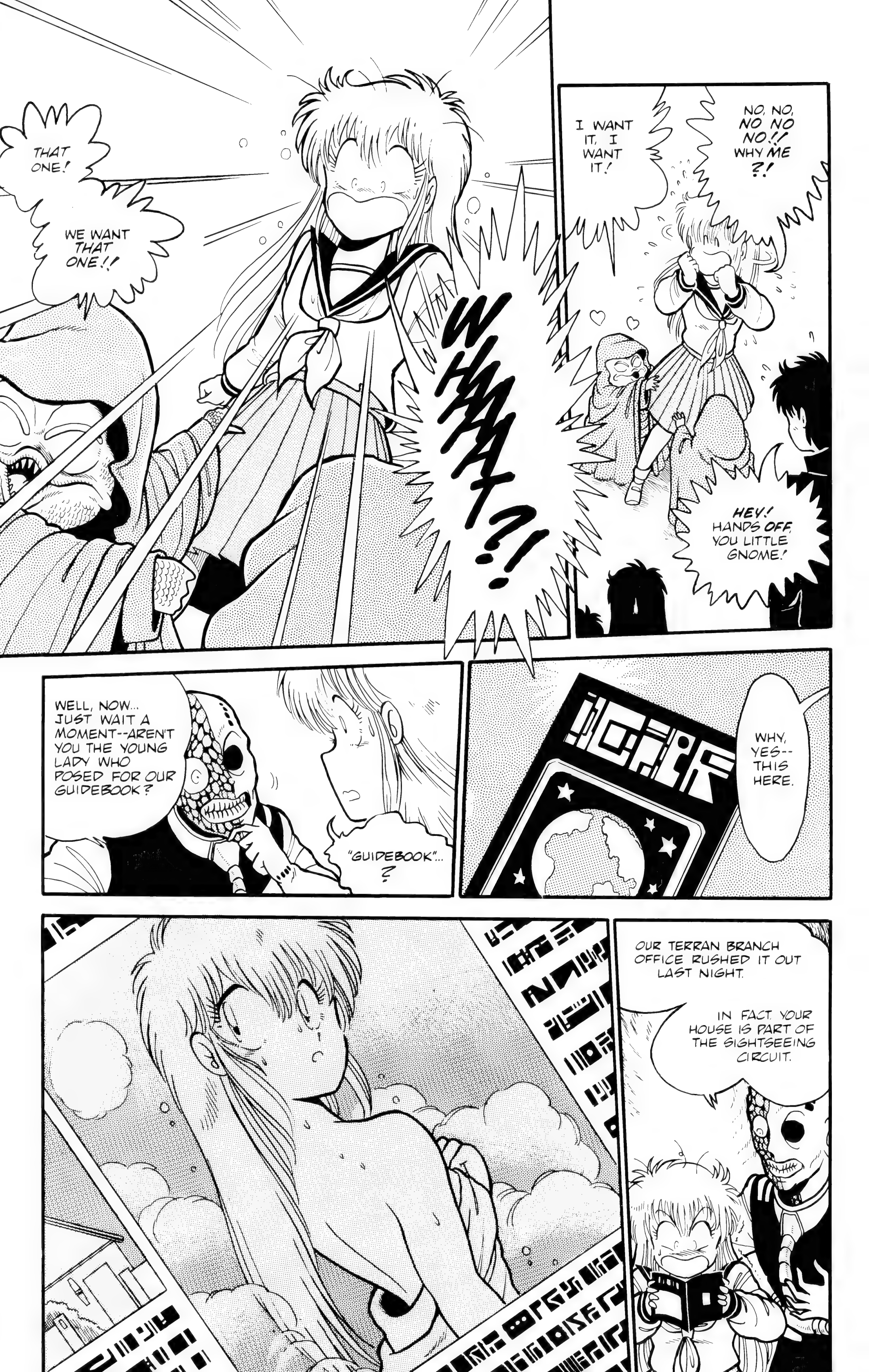

SKRASSHANGG
huhh
huhh
UNCLE MANABE WANTS YOU!
THAT OUGHT TO TEACH YOU!!
IMAGINE!! SNOOPING ON YOUR OWN GIRLFRIEND'S BATHROOM! HOW SLEAZY CAN YOU GET?!
M-ME...? SPYING ON YOU...?
HOW DO YOU KNOW IT WAS ME?!
WELL, WHO ELSE WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
GEE, THANKS A LOT, SWEET-HEART!!
AND THIS IS MY WONDERFUL BOYFRIEND, TOSHI OKAZAKI.
YOU THINK A PEEPING TOM WOULD WASTE TIME ON YOUR BODY?
OOOH! YOU CREEP! I BET YOU LIKE LITTLE GIRLS!

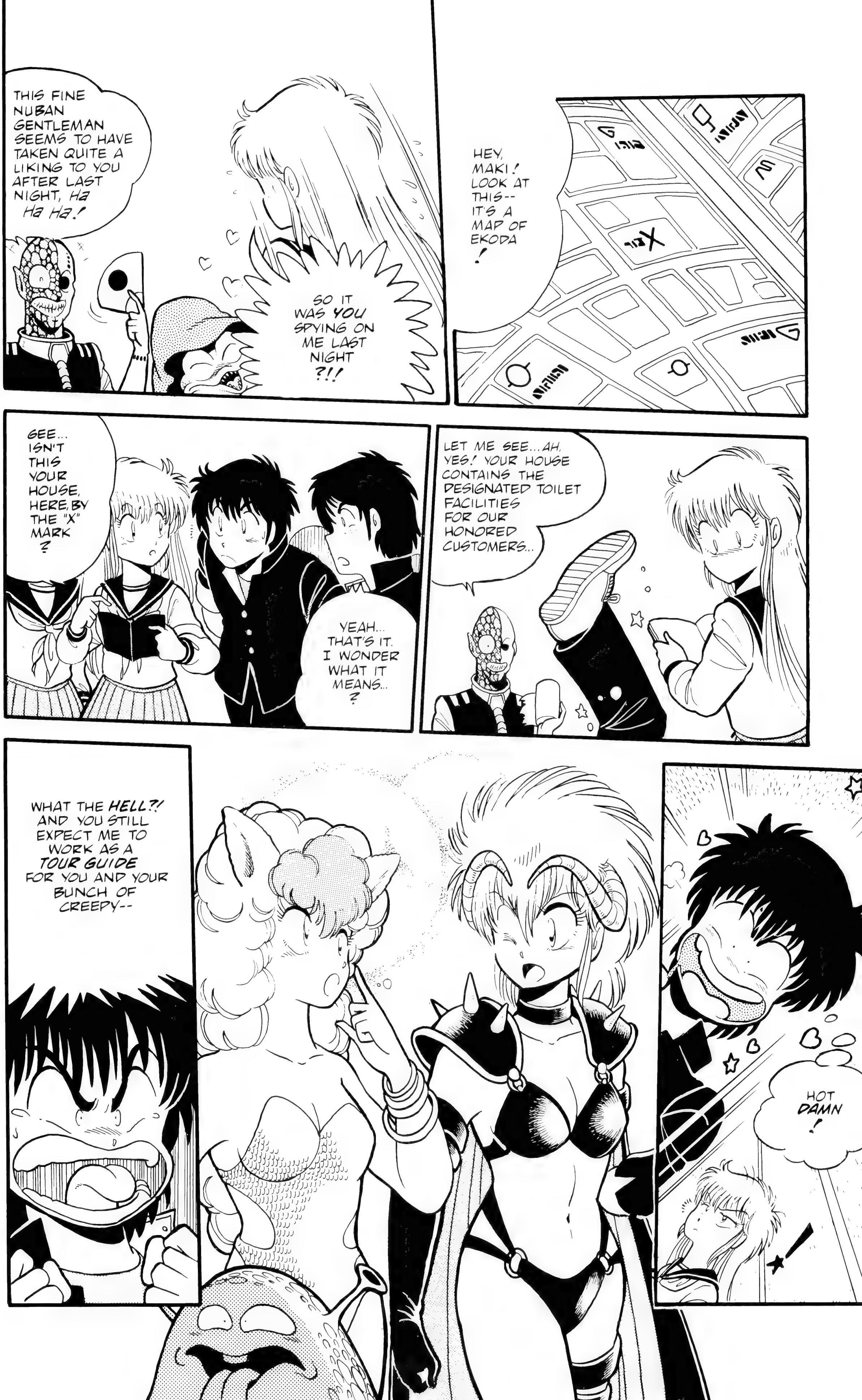

EKODA HIGH SCHOOL
...SO YOU WERE AT A RESTAURANT WITH YOUR PARENTS? GEE, I GUESS IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN YOU, THEN.
JEEZ...WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO, THEN? I'M REEEEALLY SORRY!
Heh heh heh
MAN, YOU'VE SURE GOT A WICKED PUNCH...
WOW! EEEK!
WHAT THE HELL..!
SOME KINDA MOVIE, YA THINK?
大
HMM?
GEE...
WHAT'S UP? WHY'S EVERYBODY JUST STANDING AROUND AT THE GATE?
DUNNO...
HEY! HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON?
OH, MAKI!
IT'S REALLY WEIRD... SCHOOL'S BEEN CANCELLED!
YAHOO!! PARTY TIME!!
NO WAY! THIS IS SUPER MAJOR-- COME ON UP AND LOOK!

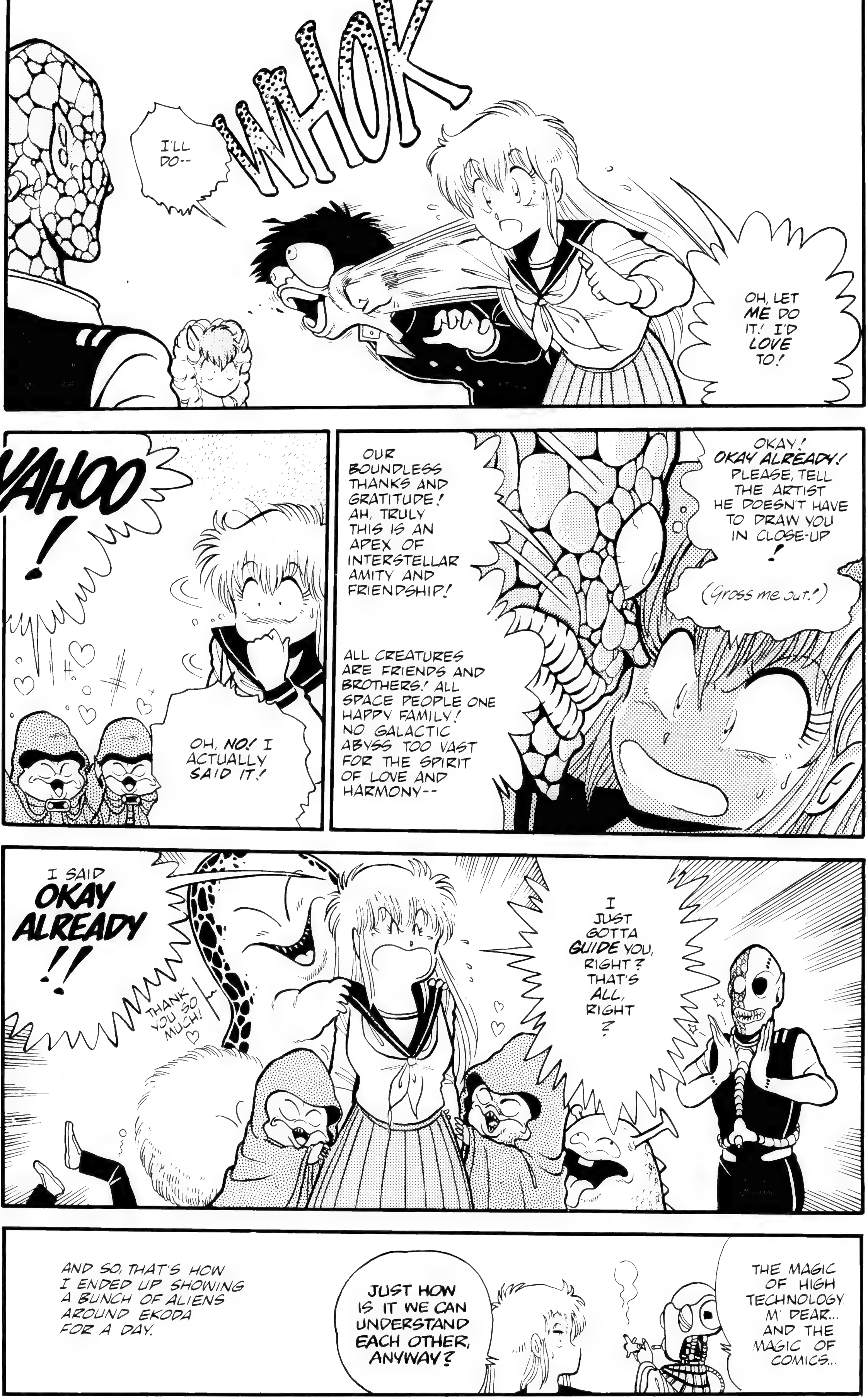

THE SCHOOLYARD'S FULL OF FREAKS!!
"FREAKS"...?
!!
OH, MY GOD!! THEY'RE ALL MONSTERS!!
SOME KINDA MASQUERADE, MAYBE...?
COSTUMES?
NO WAY!
!

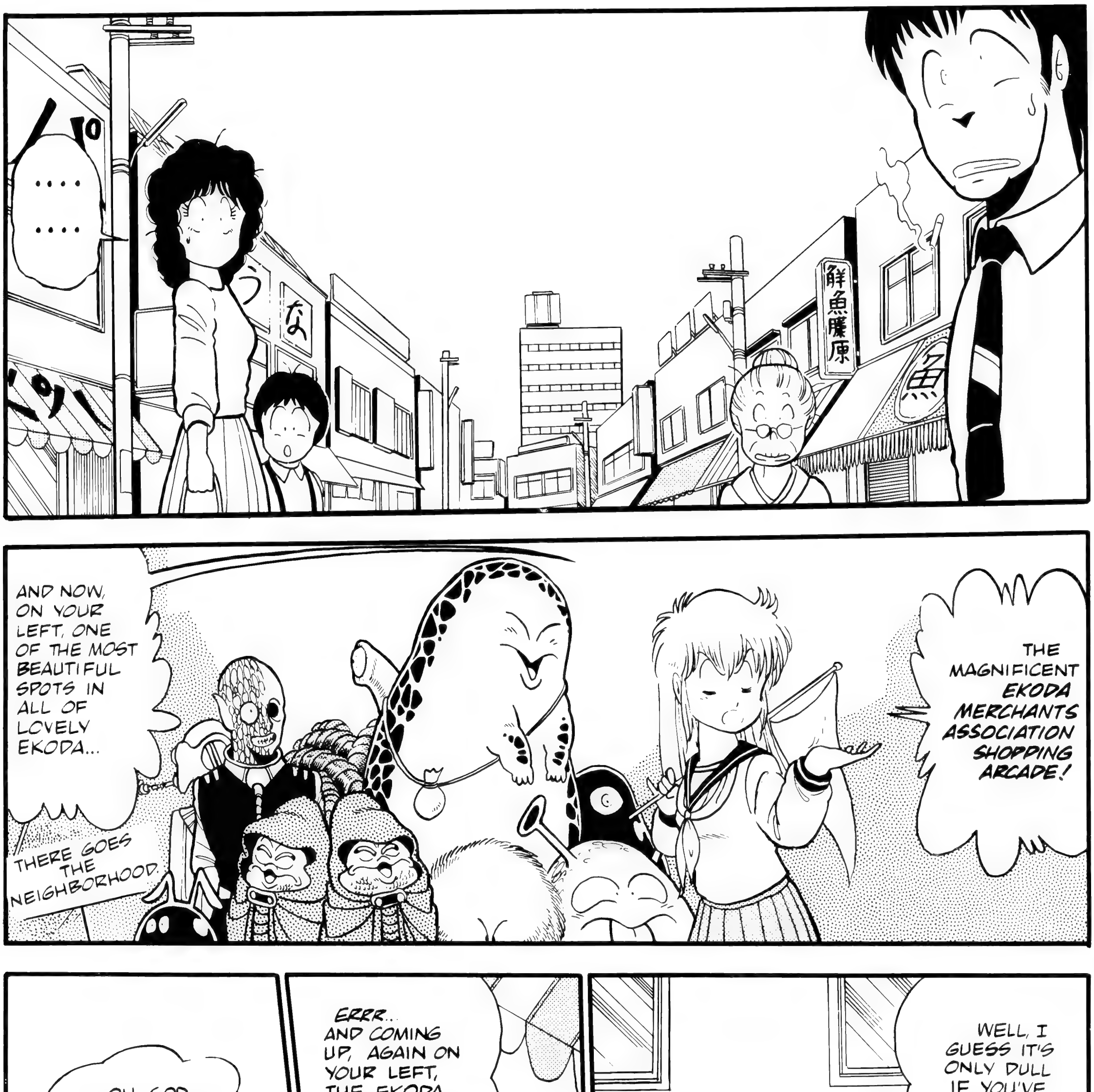

GREETINGS! GREETINGS TO YOU ALL! THIS IS INDEED A PLEASURE, LET ME TELL YOU, AND DO ACCEPT OUR APOLOGIES FOR THE COMMOTION, PEOPLE OF EARTH!
YAAAA!
NO, NO! DON'T PANIC, MY FRIENDS.. WE'RE NOT HOSTILE AT ALL, I ASSURE YOU!
BHOA'S THE NAME-- CHIEF GUIDE FOR MILKY WAY TOURS™, BRINGING OUR CLIENTS THE BEST IN ROMANTIC VACATION CRUISES THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY!
OH, YES, PERHAPS YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, BUT I'M NOT ACTUALLY FROM EARTH, MYSELF.
NO.. YOU CAN'T BE.. YOU'RE NOT--
AN ALIEN!?!
AT YOUR SERVICE.
AND THESE ARE OUR TRUSTED GUESTS AND FRIENDS, NOW ENJOYING A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME "AROUND THE GALAXY" CRUISE, COURTESY OF MILKY WAY TOURS™, OF COURSE.
AHEM...
ANYWAY, THIS IS TRULY AN HISTORIC EVENT! INCREDIBLE AS IT MAY SEEM, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE INCLUDED YOUR FAIR PLANET ON OUR TOUR.
ALIENS?
NO WAY!
REALLY?
UNFORTUNATELY, THROUGH A MOST INEXCUSABLE SLIP-UP BACK AT OUR HOME OFFICE, IT WOULD SEEM WE--Ha Ha--WE FORGOT TO ARRANGE CLEARANCE WITH THE EARTH GOVERNMENT FOR OUR VISIT. NOW, OF COURSE WE COULDN'T JUST VIOLATE OUR CONTRACT WITH OUR LOYAL CUSTOMERS, HERE...ER, SO HERE WE ARE, Ha Ha, WITHOUT OFFICIAL SANCTION.

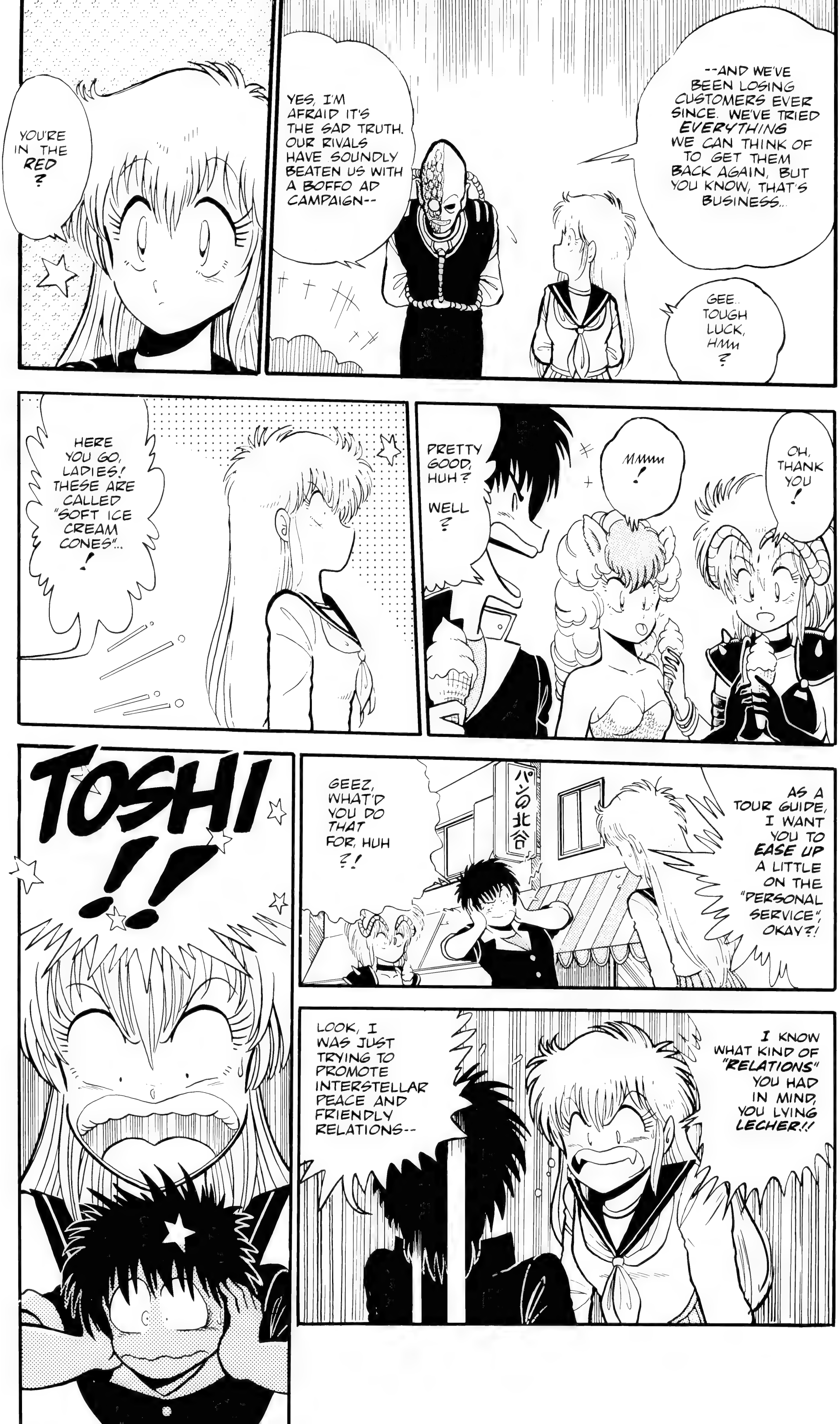

BUT WE DID SO WANT TO SPEND AT LEAST ONE DAY ON YOUR ILLUSTRIOUS ORB--
--SO WE LANDED HERE LAST NIGHT.
"LANDED"...? LIKE, FROM A FLYING SAUCER?
"SAUCER"...? AH, YOU MEAN OUR SHIP! YES, THEY'LL BE BACK FOR US TONIGHT.
UNTIL THEN, IT WILL WAIT IN GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT.
WOW... SEEMS LIKE HE'S NOT JOKING!
YOU BELIEVE HIM?
YEAH, I GUESS SO... BUT GEEZ, WHAT A CRUMMY "FIRST CONTACT"...!
BY THE WAY, WOULD ANY OF YOU FINE YOUNG LADIES AND GENTLEMEN CARE TO BE OUR LOCAL GUIDES?
WHAAAAT!
WELL, Heh heh... YOU SEE, THIS IS MY FIRST TIME ON EARTH, TOO, AND WELL...
IT JUST SEEMS WISER TO HIRE SOME OF THE LOCALS THIS TIME AROUND, HMM?
OH, I ASSURE YOU THE LUCKY PERSONS WILL BE HANDSOMELY REWARDED!
ALL RIGHT!
WHADDA YA THINK? HE SAYS THEY'LL PAY!
SO YOU DO IT, COWBOY!
OH, GROSS! THEY'RE TOO CREEPY!
YEAH!
MR. BHOA! MR BHOA, SIR!
YES, GENTLEMEN?
]

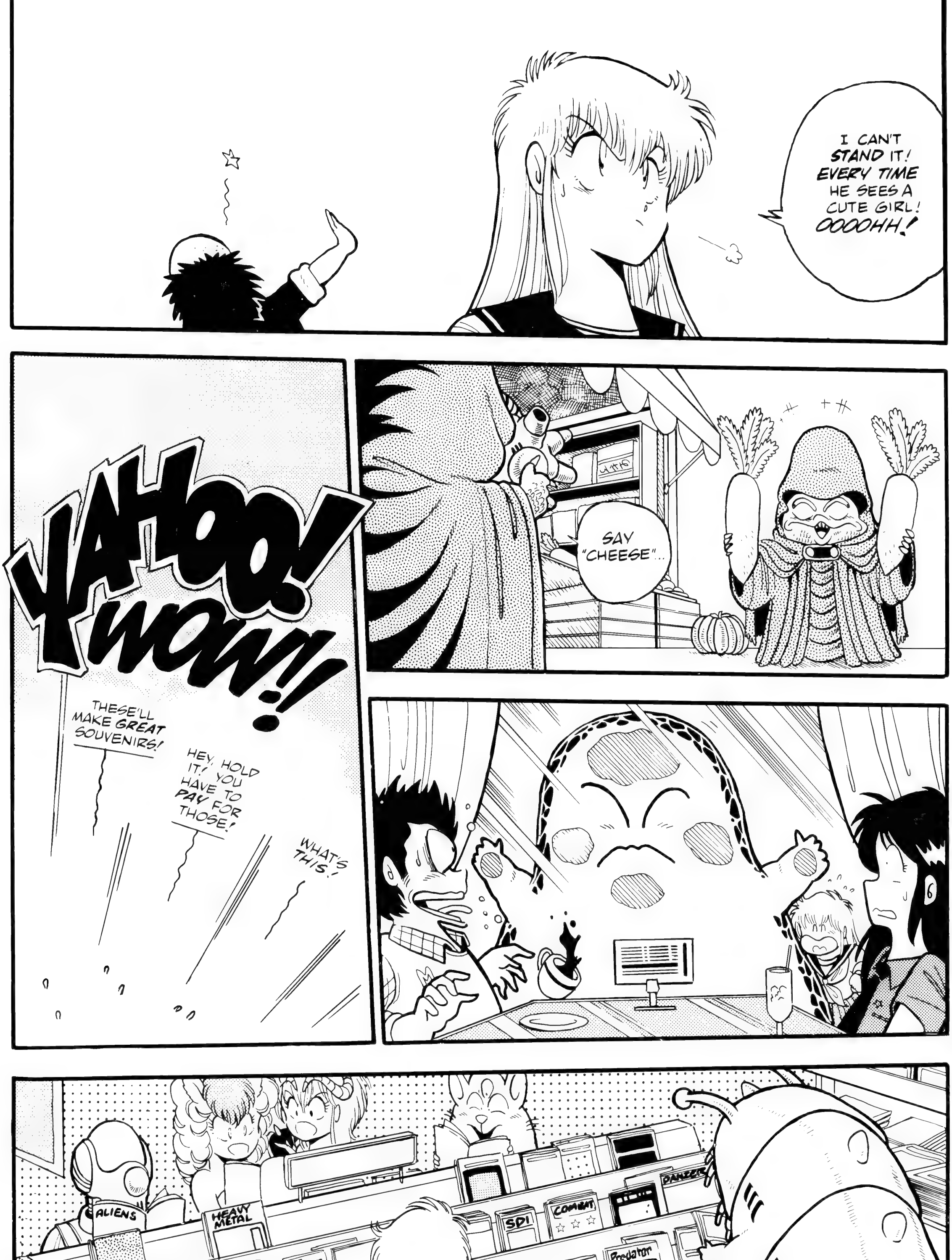

THAT ONE!
WE WANT THAT ONE!!
WHAAAT?!
I WANT IT, I WANT IT!
NO, NO, NO NO NO!! WHY ME?!
HEY! HANDS OFF, YOU LITTLE GNOME!
WELL, NOW... JUST WAIT A MOMENT--AREN'T YOU THE YOUNG LADY WHO POSED FOR OUR GUIDEBOOK?
"GUIDEBOOK"...?
WHY, YES-- THIS HERE.
OUR TERRAN BRANCH OFFICE RUSHED IT OUT LAST NIGHT.
IN FACT, YOUR HOUSE IS PART OF THE SIGHTSEEING CIRCUIT.

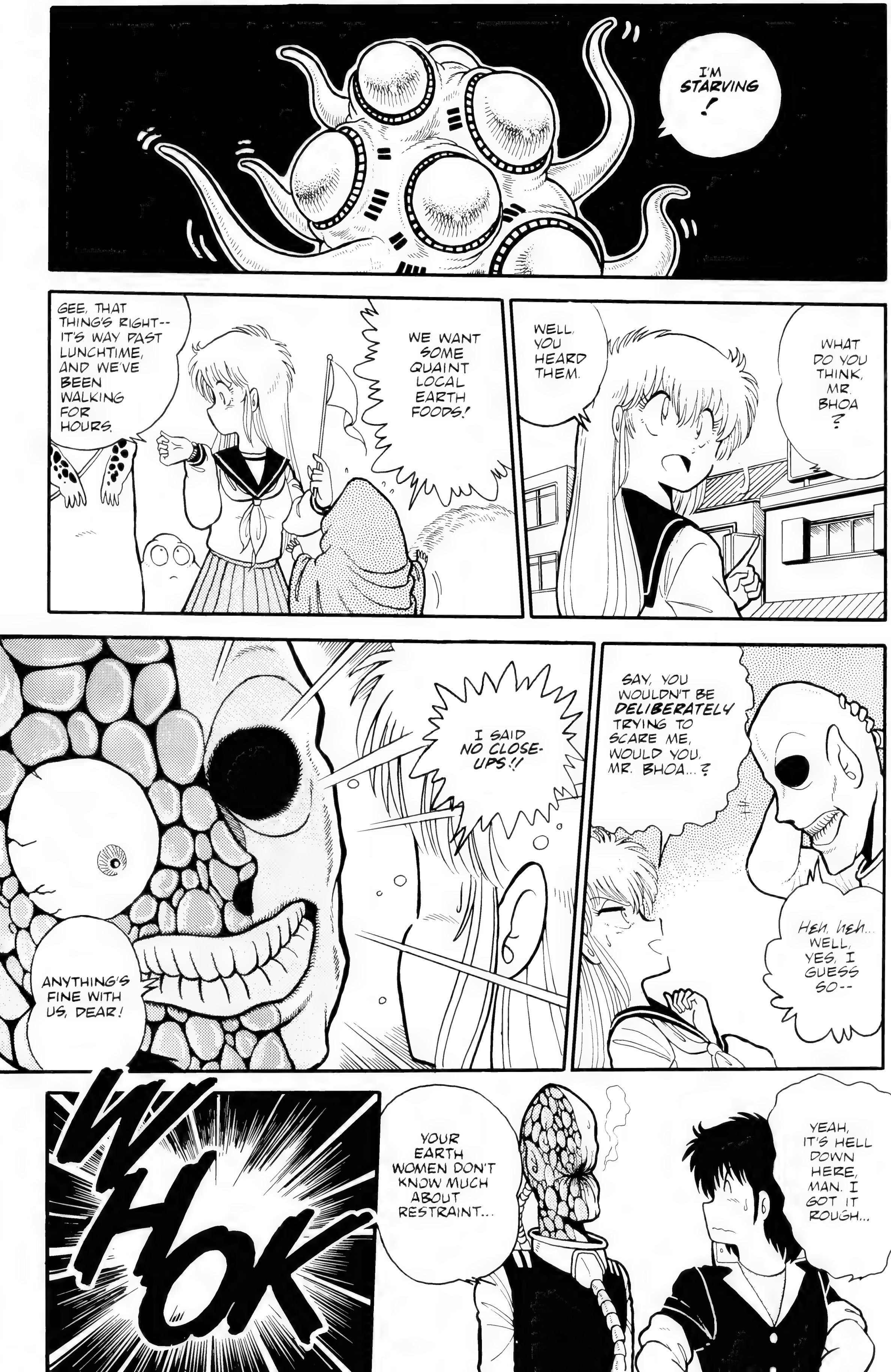

THIS FINE NUBAN GENTLEMAN SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN QUITE A LIKING TO YOU AFTER LAST NIGHT, Ha Ha Ha!
SO IT WAS YOU SPYING ON ME LAST NIGHT?!!
HEY, MAKI! LOOK AT THIS-- IT'S A MAP OF EKODA!
X
GEE... ISN'T THIS YOUR HOUSE, HERE, BY THE "X" MARK?
YEAH... THAT'S IT. I WONDER WHAT IT MEANS...?
LET ME SEE... AH, YES! YOUR HOUSE CONTAINS THE DESIGNATED TOILET FACILITIES FOR OUR HONORED CUSTOMERS...
WHAT THE HELL?! AND YOU STILL EXPECT ME TO WORK AS A TOUR GUIDE FOR YOU AND YOUR BUNCH OF CREEPY--
HOT DAMN!

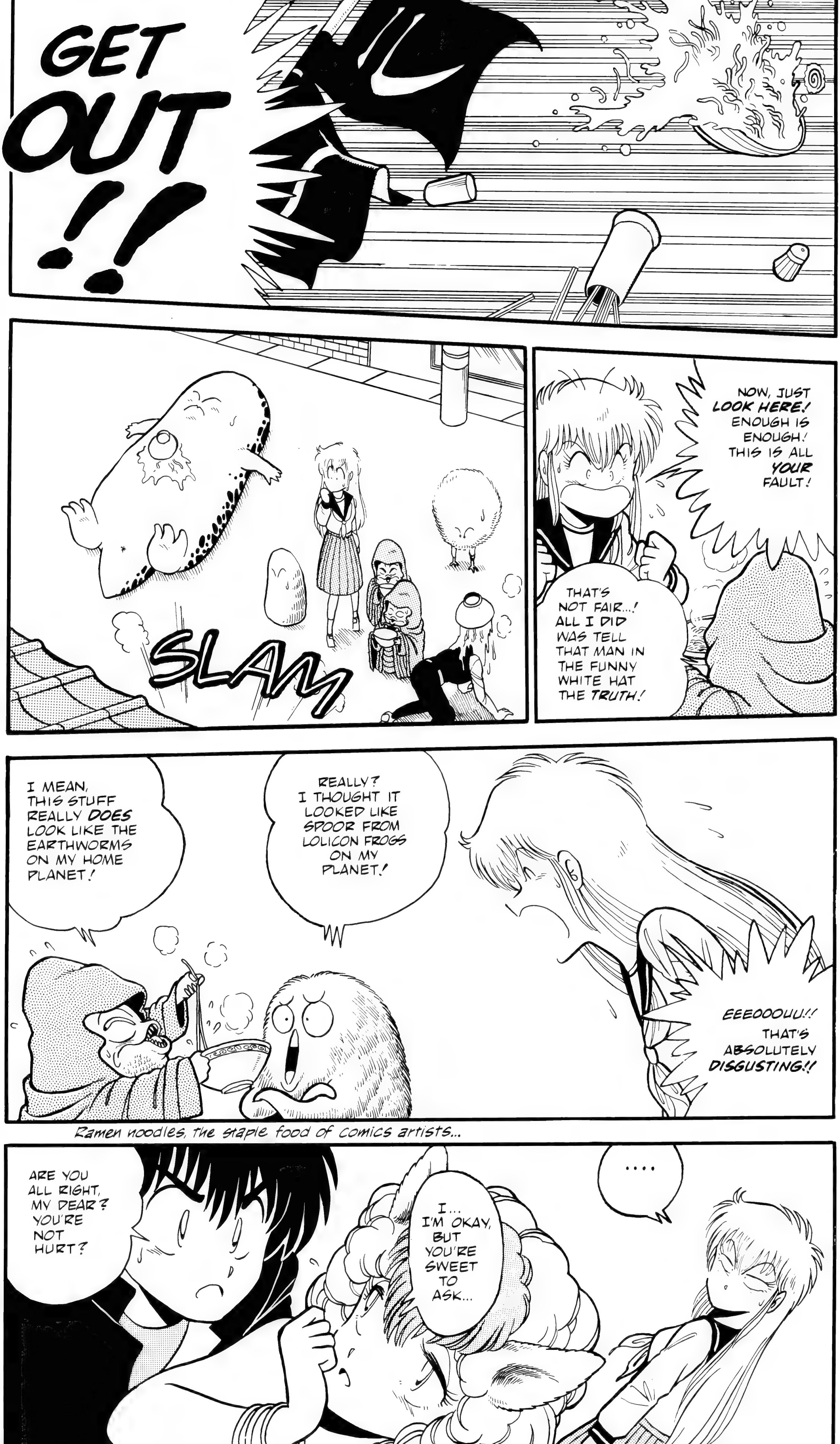

I'LL DO--
WHOK
OH, LET ME DO IT! I'D LOVE TO!
YAHOO!
OH, NO! I ACTUALLY SAID IT!
OUR BOUNDLESS THANKS AND GRATITUDE! AH, TRULY THIS IS AN APEX OF INTERSTELLAR AMITY AND FRIENDSHIP!
ALL CREATURES ARE FRIENDS AND BROTHERS! ALL SPACE PEOPLE ONE HAPPY FAMILY! NO GALACTIC ABYSS TOO VAST FOR THE SPIRIT OF LOVE AND HARMONY--
OKAY! OKAY ALREADY! PLEASE, TELL THE ARTIST HE DOESN'T HAVE TO DRAW YOU IN CLOSE-UP!
(Gross me out!)
I SAID OKAY ALREADY!!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
I JUST GOTTA GUIDE YOU, RIGHT? THAT'S ALL, RIGHT?
AND SO, THAT'S HOW I ENDED UP SHOWING A BUNCH OF ALIENS AROUND EKODA FOR A DAY.
JUST HOW IS IT WE CAN UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, ANYWAY?
THE MAGIC OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY, M' DEAR... AND THE MAGIC OF COMICS...

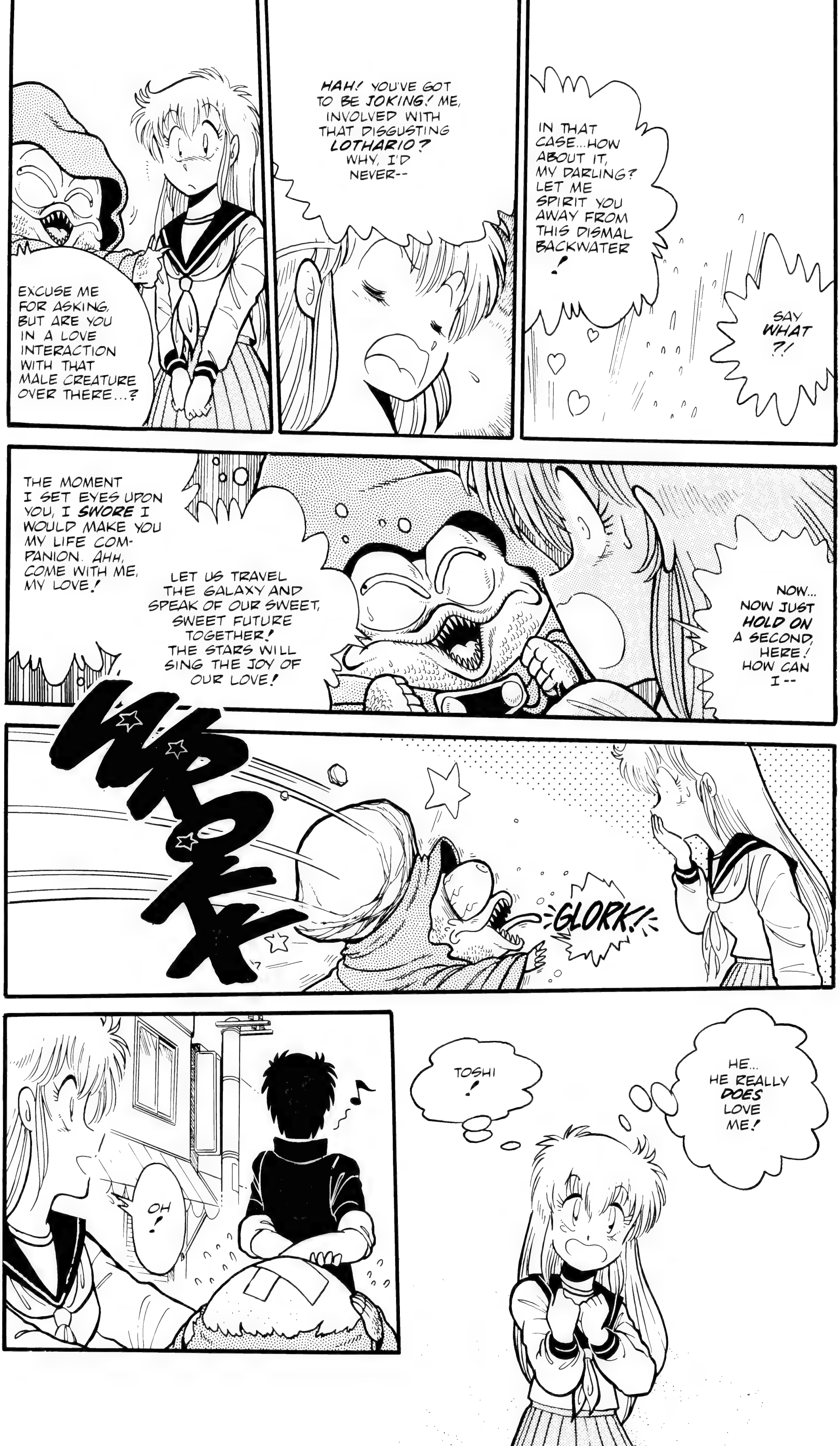

....
....
うな
鮮魚藤原
魚
AND NOW, ON YOUR LEFT, ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SPOTS IN ALL OF LOVELY EKODA...
THE MAGNIFICENT EKODA MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION SHOPPING ARCADE!
THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
OH, GOD, THIS IS JUST SOOO DUMB! BUT WHAT ELSE IS THERE IN EKODA TO SHOW A BUNCH OF BEMS?
ERRR.. AND COMING UP, AGAIN ON YOUR LEFT, THE EKODA VEGETABLE STAND!
みかん
八百
WELL, I GUESS IT'S ONLY DULL IF YOU'VE SEEN IT BEFORE..
GOSH! A "VEGETABLE STAND"..!
GET A PICTURE OF THIS!
DO THEY BITE?
EEK
?

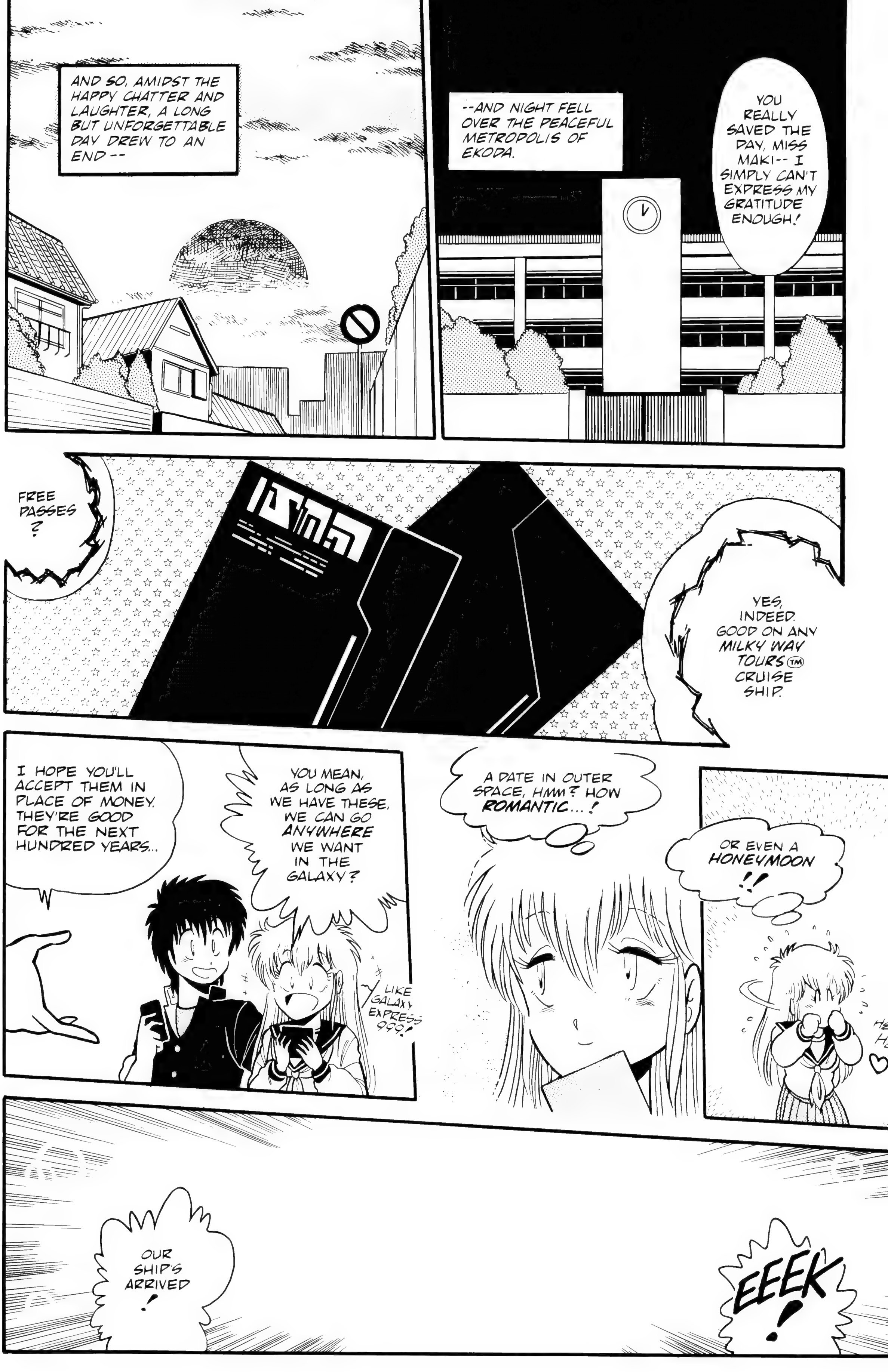

YOU'RE IN THE *RED*?
YES, I'M AFRAID IT'S THE SAD TRUTH. OUR RIVALS HAVE SOUNDLY BEATEN US WITH A BOFFO AD CAMPAIGN--
--AND WE'VE BEEN LOSING CUSTOMERS EVER SINCE. WE'VE TRIED *EVERYTHING* WE CAN THINK OF TO GET THEM BACK AGAIN, BUT YOU KNOW, THAT'S BUSINESS...
GEE.. TOUGH LUCK, HMM?
HERE YOU GO, LADIES! THESE ARE CALLED "SOFT ICE CREAM CONES"...!
PRETTY GOOD, HUH? WELL?
MMMM!
OH, THANK YOU!
TOSHI!!
GEEZ, WHAT'D YOU DO *THAT* FOR, HUH?!
パンの北谷
AS A TOUR GUIDE, I WANT YOU TO **EASE UP** A LITTLE ON THE "PERSONAL SERVICE", OKAY?!
LOOK, I WAS JUST TRYING TO PROMOTE INTERSTELLAR PEACE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS--
I KNOW WHAT KIND OF **"RELATIONS"** YOU HAD IN MIND, YOU LYING **LECHER!!**

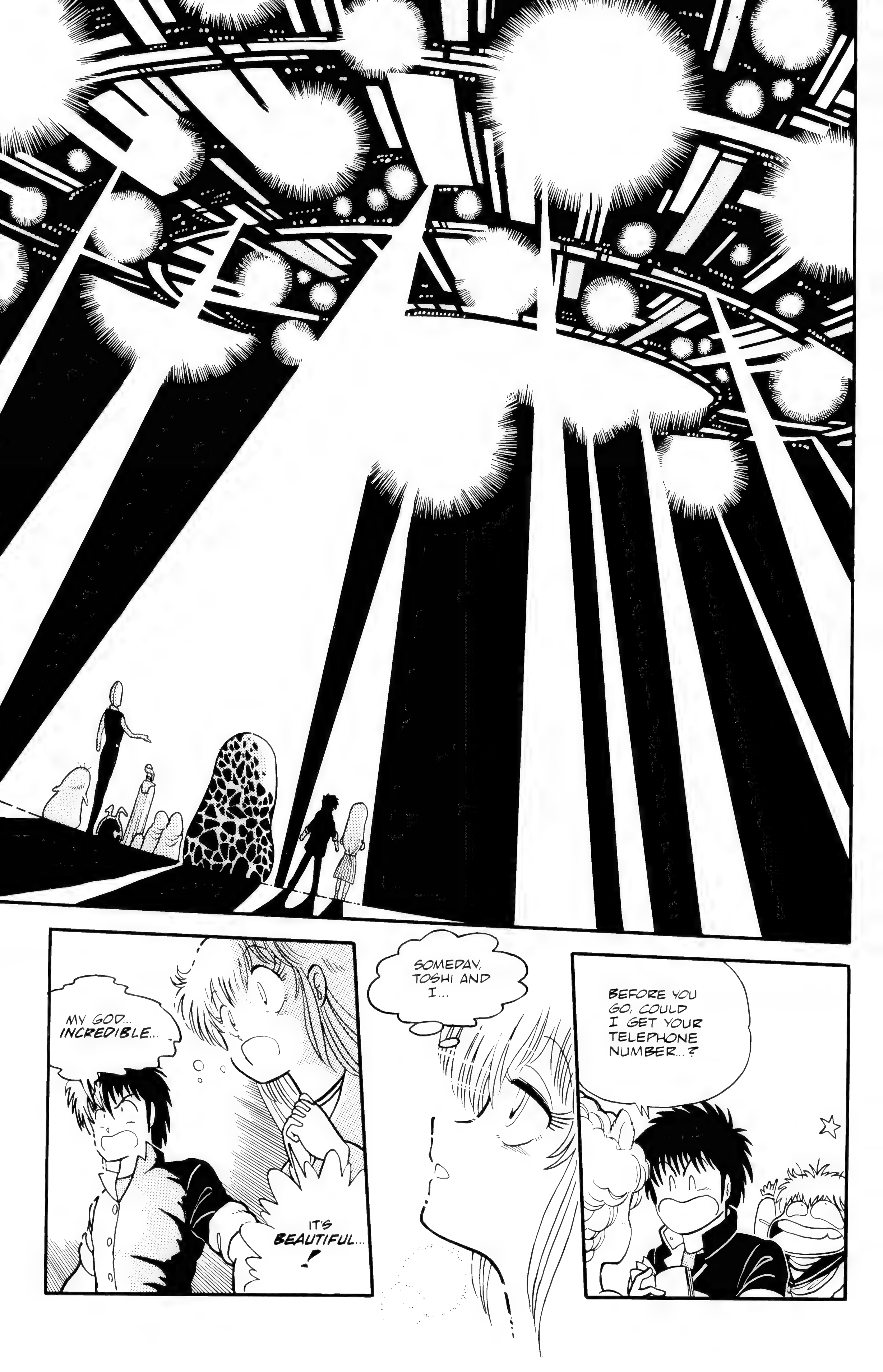

I CAN'T STAND IT! EVERY TIME HE SEES A CUTE GIRL! OOOOHH!
YAHOO! WOW!!
THESE'LL MAKE GREAT SOUVENIRS!
HEY, HOLD IT! YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR THOSE!
WHAT'S THIS!
SAY "CHEESE"...
ALIENS
HEAVY METAL
PANZER
SDI
COMBAT
LEMON PEOPLE
MAYHEM
FOCUS
Giger
Dirty Pair
OUTLANDERS
Predator
Appleseed
MODEL ART

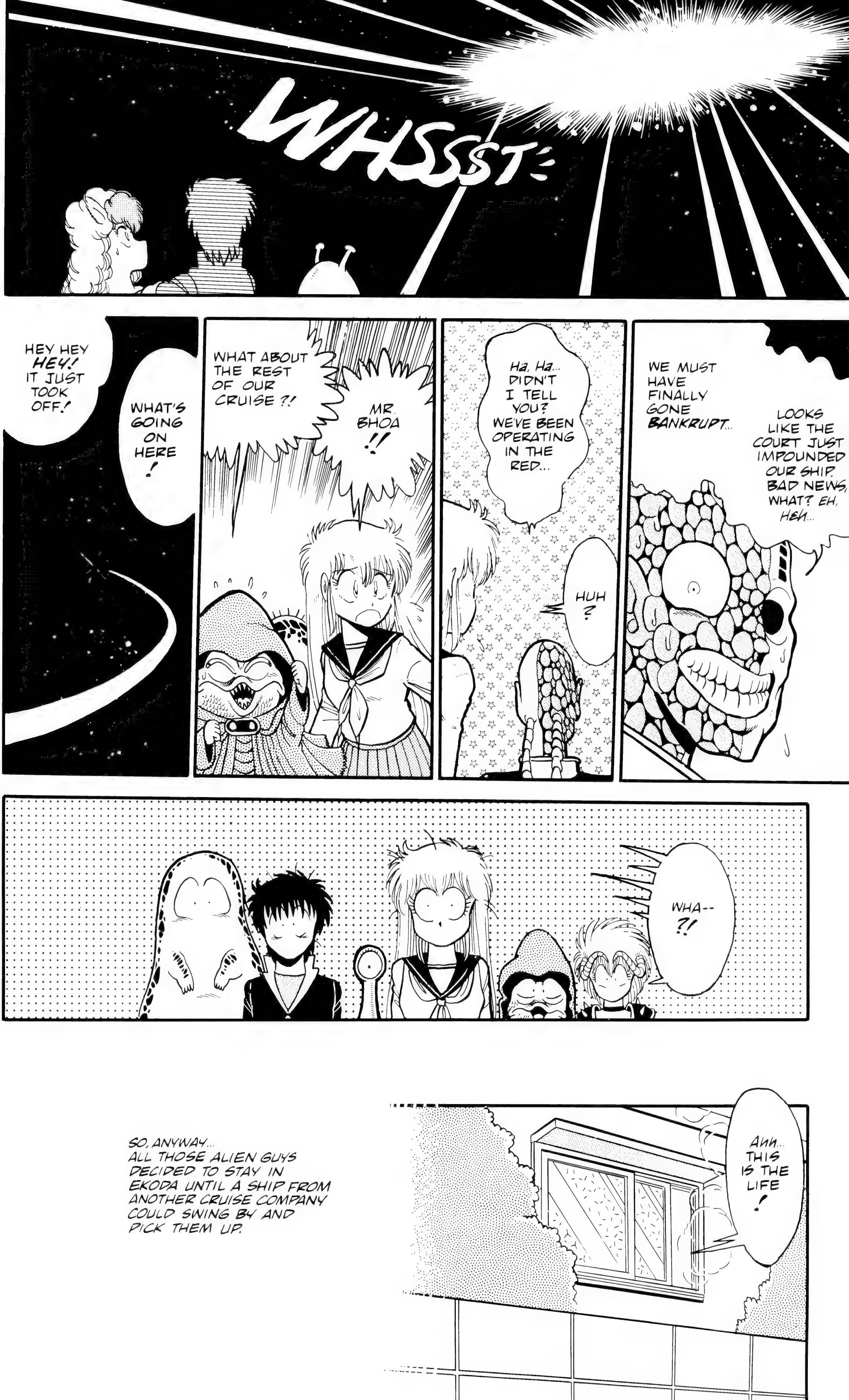

I'M STARVING!
GEE, THAT THING'S RIGHT-- IT'S WAY PAST LUNCHTIME, AND WE'VE BEEN WALKING FOR HOURS.
WE WANT SOME QUAINT LOCAL EARTH FOODS!
WELL, YOU HEARD THEM.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, MR. BHOA?
ANYTHING'S FINE WITH US, DEAR!
I SAID NO CLOSE-UPS!!
SAY, YOU WOULDN'T BE DELIBERATELY TRYING TO SCARE ME, WOULD YOU, MR. BHOA...?
Heh, heh... WELL, YES, I GUESS SO--
WHOK
YOUR EARTH WOMEN DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT RESTRAINT...
YEAH, IT'S HELL DOWN HERE, MAN. I GOT IT ROUGH...

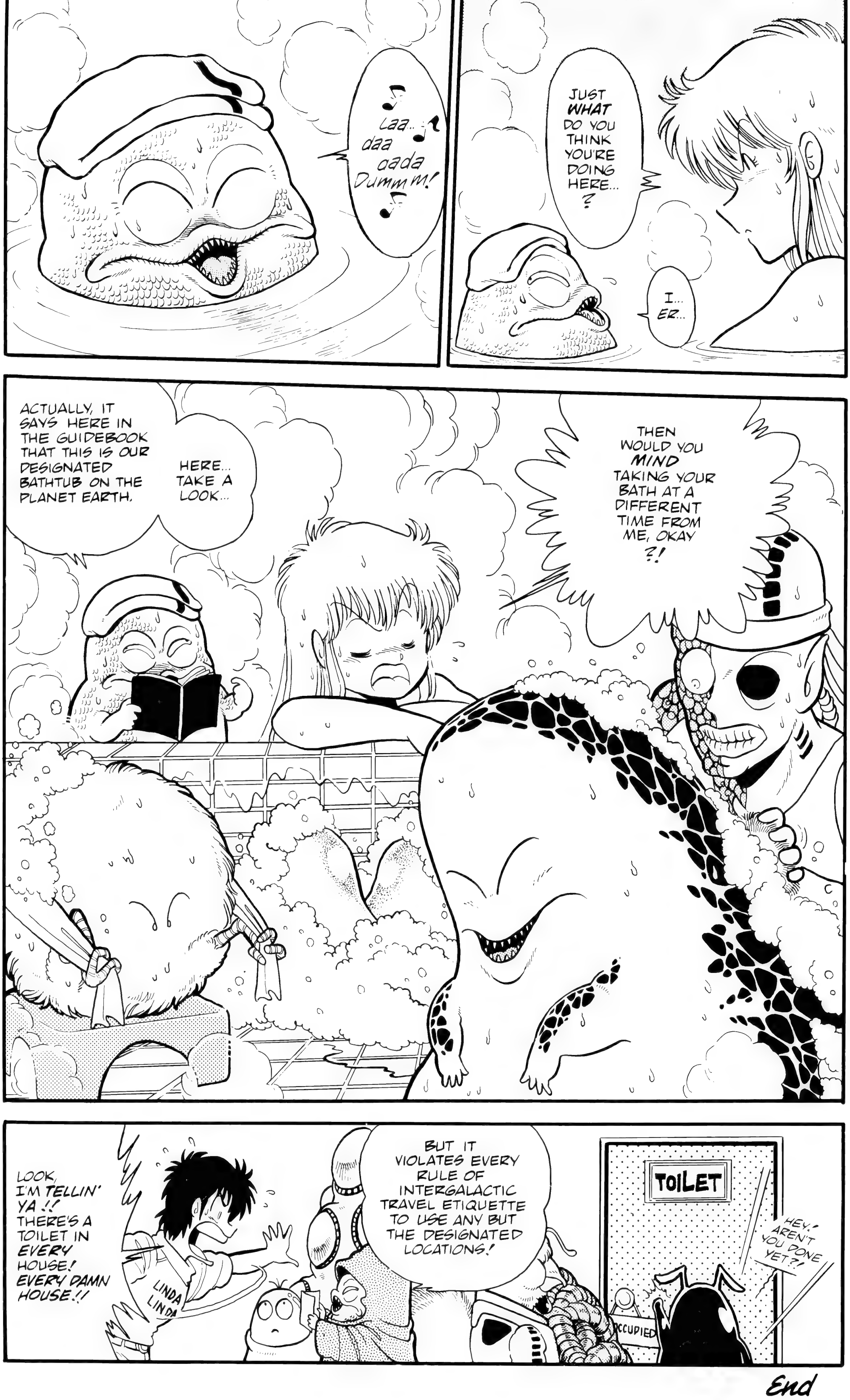

GET OUT!!
SLAM
NOW, JUST LOOK HERE! ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!
THAT'S NOT FAIR...! ALL I DID WAS TELL THAT MAN IN THE FUNNY WHITE HAT THE TRUTH!
I MEAN, THIS STUFF REALLY DOES LOOK LIKE THE EARTHWORMS ON MY HOME PLANET!
REALLY? I THOUGHT IT LOOKED LIKE SPOOR FROM LOLICON FROGS ON MY PLANET!
EEEOOOUU!! THAT'S ABSOLUTELY DISGUSTING!!
Ramen noodles, the staple food of comics artists...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MY DEAR? YOU'RE NOT HURT?
I... I'M OKAY, BUT YOU'RE SWEET TO ASK...
....


EXCUSE ME FOR ASKING, BUT ARE YOU IN A LOVE INTERACTION WITH THAT MALE CREATURE OVER THERE...?
HAH! YOU'VE GOT TO BE JOKING! ME, INVOLVED WITH THAT DISGUSTING LOTHARIO? WHY, I'D NEVER--
IN THAT CASE...HOW ABOUT IT, MY DARLING? LET ME SPIRIT YOU AWAY FROM THIS DISMAL BACKWATER!
SAY WHAT?!
THE MOMENT I SET EYES UPON YOU, I SWORE I WOULD MAKE YOU MY LIFE COMPANION. AHH, COME WITH ME, MY LOVE!
LET US TRAVEL THE GALAXY AND SPEAK OF OUR SWEET, SWEET FUTURE TOGETHER! THE STARS WILL SING THE JOY OF OUR LOVE!
NOW... NOW JUST HOLD ON A SECOND, HERE! HOW CAN I--
WRAKK
GLORK!
OH!
TOSHI!
HE... HE REALLY DOES LOVE ME!


AND SO, AMIDST THE HAPPY CHATTER AND LAUGHTER, A LONG BUT UNFORGETTABLE DAY DREW TO AN END--
--AND NIGHT FELL OVER THE PEACEFUL METROPOLIS OF EKODA.
YOU REALLY SAVED THE DAY, MISS MAKI-- I SIMPLY CAN'T EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE ENOUGH!
FREE PASSES?
YES, INDEED. GOOD ON ANY MILKY WAY TOURS™ CRUISE SHIP.
I HOPE YOU'LL ACCEPT THEM IN PLACE OF MONEY. THEY'RE GOOD FOR THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS...
YOU MEAN, AS LONG AS WE HAVE THESE, WE CAN GO ANYWHERE WE WANT IN THE GALAXY?
LIKE GALAXY EXPRESS 999!
A DATE IN OUTER SPACE, HMM? HOW ROMANTIC...!
OR EVEN A HONEYMOON!!
OUR SHIP'S ARRIVED!
EEEK!


MY GOD... INCREDIBLE...
IT'S BEAUTIFUL...!
SOMEDAY, TOSHI AND I...
BEFORE YOU GO, COULD I GET YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER...?


WHSSST
HEY HEY *HEY!* IT JUST TOOK OFF!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!
WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF OUR CRUISE ?!
MR. BHOA !!
Ha, Ha... DIDN'T I TELL YOU? WE'VE BEEN OPERATING IN THE RED...
HUH ?
WE MUST HAVE FINALLY GONE *BANKRUPT*...
LOOKS LIKE THE COURT JUST IMPOUNDED OUR SHIP. BAD NEWS, WHAT? EH, HEH...
WHA-- ?!
SO, ANYWAY... ALL THOSE ALIEN GUYS DECIDED TO STAY IN EKODA UNTIL A SHIP FROM ANOTHER CRUISE COMPANY COULD SWING BY AND PICK THEM UP.
Ahh... THIS IS THE LIFE!


♪ Laa... ♪ daa oada Dummm! ♪
JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING HERE...?
I... ER...
ACTUALLY, IT SAYS HERE IN THE GUIDEBOOK THAT THIS IS OUR DESIGNATED BATHTUB ON THE PLANET EARTH.
HERE... TAKE A LOOK...
THEN WOULD YOU MIND TAKING YOUR BATH AT A DIFFERENT TIME FROM ME, OKAY?!
LOOK, I'M TELLIN' YA!! THERE'S A TOILET IN EVERY HOUSE! EVERY DAMN HOUSE!!
LINDA LINDA
BUT IT VIOLATES EVERY RULE OF INTERGALACTIC TRAVEL ETIQUETTE TO USE ANY BUT THE DESIGNATED LOCATIONS!
TOILET
HEY! AREN'T YOU DONE YET?!
OCCUPIED
End

MANABE SPEAKS

Greetings! This is my first opportunity to say hello to my American readers, and so — hello! This is Johji Manabe, creator of *Outlanders*.

Thank you (really) for reading my *Outlanders* comic, month after month. *Outlanders* wrapped up in Japan about two years ago, but it was my very first full-length story to be serialized in a comic magazine, and so I still have a soft place for it in my heart. From the beginning of my career as a cartoonist, I had always wanted to try my hand at space opera. The reason for this was pretty simple: I love drawing spaceships! I had this fantasy of my characters running around in a universe swarming with massive space battleships, thousands of meters long. Initially, I was under orders from the editors to make *Outlanders* an action story full of monsters, mayhem, and destruction. Since I'm not particularly fond of monsters, I came up with the compromise of living battleships, the biomech warships of *Outlanders*.

These beginnings determined the final shape of the *Outlanders* universe. Drawing those damn ships has been a real bitch though . . .

As for my characters, I've pretty much let them do their own thing. Rather than fret and moan over their misbehavior, I decided they could play out their own roles as they pleased. Of course, working with their complicated personalities was trouble enough, not to mention designing their appearances to everyone's satisfaction. I'd never done clothing design before, so getting the characters and the Santovasku Army suited up was a real nightmare. Looking back, though, it was an excellent learning experience.

The story line, on the other hand, wasn't much trouble. Since *Outlanders* was to be a war story, I knew that someone had to win and someone had to lose. Both the earth and the Empire had their own problems to work out, and getting things to mesh properly was sometimes difficult. In the end, I was able to get the story to move along smoothly. Still, flipping though the volumes these days, there are quite a few things I wish I'd done differently. Someday, if I have the chance, I'd like to write *Outlanders II* and get it right. Or perhaps I'll write a follow-up, a history of the post-war years . . .

Outlanders was the work that finally gave me confidence that I could keep myself fed and clothed working as a cartoonist. I count myself lucky that my first serialized manga won so much support from its readers in Japan, and I am overjoyed that, through the cooperation of Dark Horse and Studio Proteus, *Outlanders* is being read by fans in America, too. There's a lot more in store for Kahm and Tetsuya on their twisting path to love and for the earth and the Empire as they lock in final battle. I hope you'll watch them all until the end.

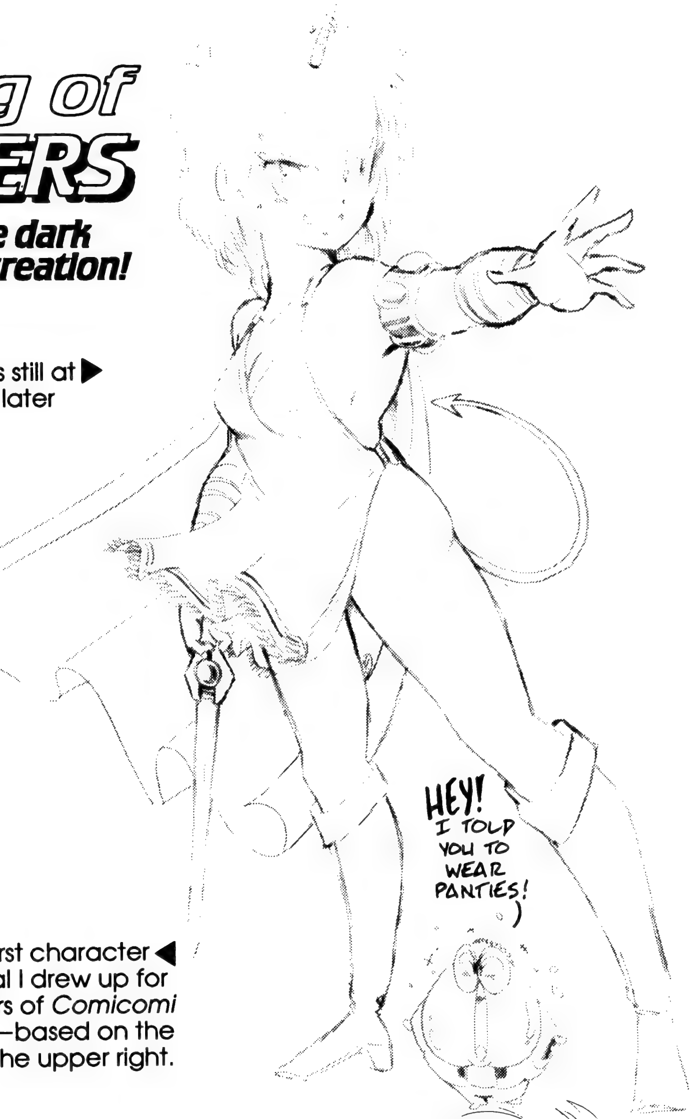
Thanks!

Johji Manabe
Ekoda, Japan
October 1989

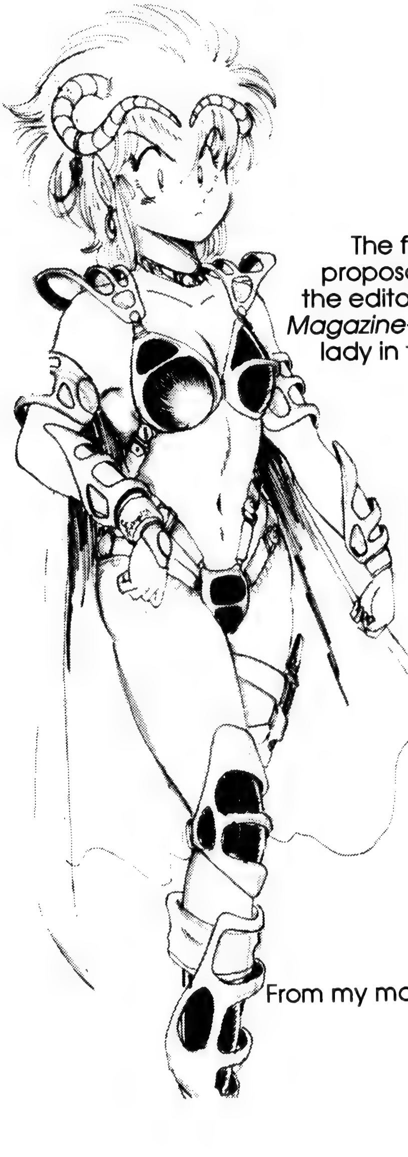
the making of OUTLANDERS

Johji Manabe reveals the dark secrets behind his epic creation!

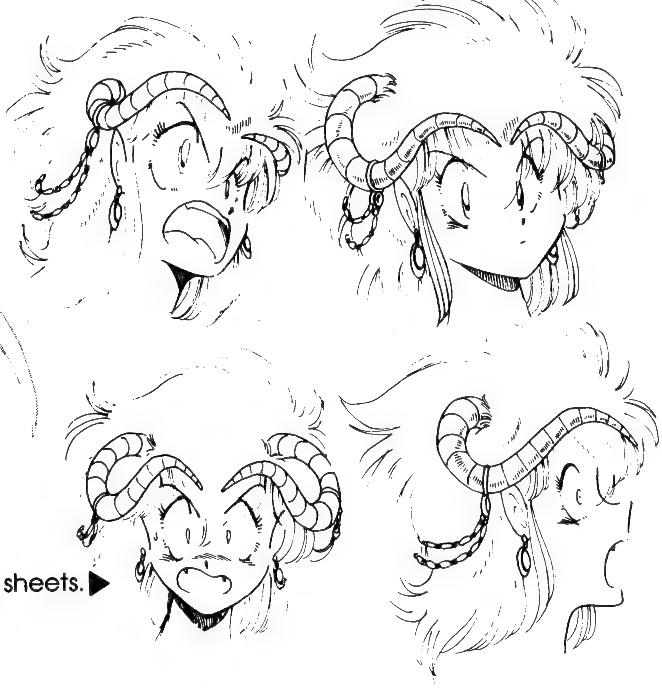
A character I created while I was still at ▶ the Osaka School of Design. She later became the model for **Kahm**.

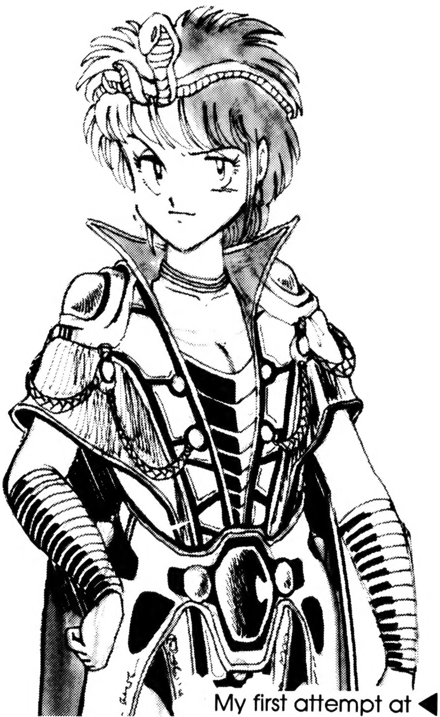

HEY! I TOLD YOU TO WEAR PANTIES!

The first character ◀ proposal I drew up for the editors of *Comicomi Magazine*—based on the lady in the upper right.

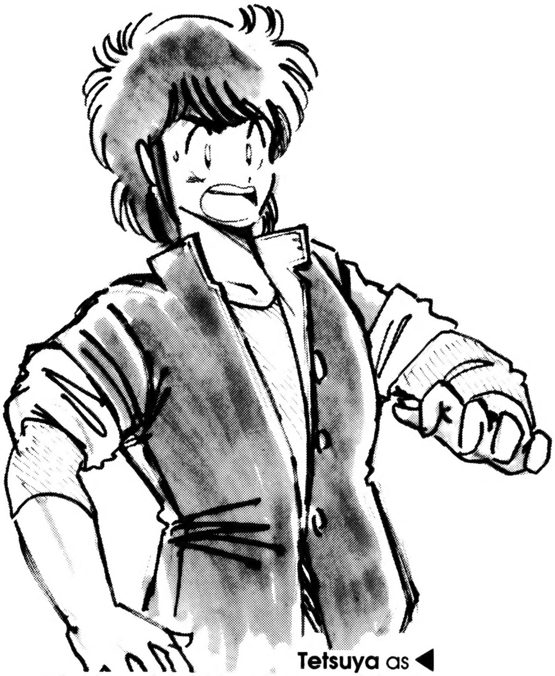


From my model sheets. ▶

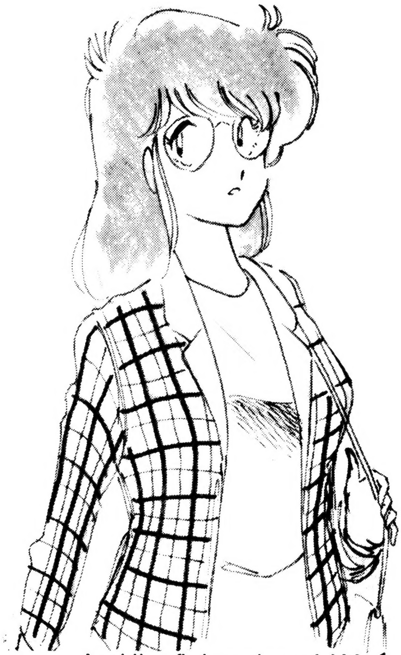




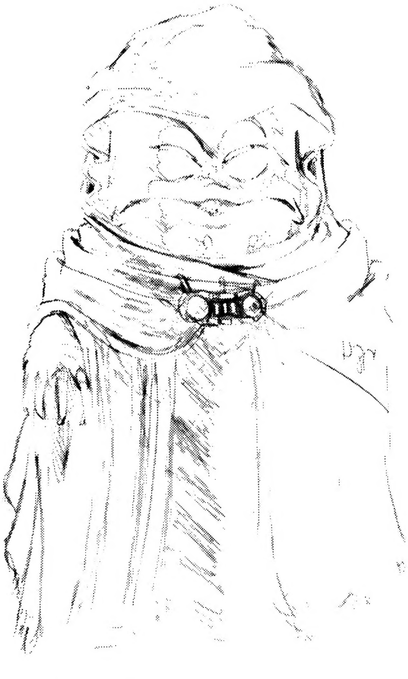
My first attempt at ◀ **Battia**. Early in the planning stages, I was calling her "Medusa."



Tetsuya as ◀ I first imagined him.He was originally going to be a high school student, but that would have been the same as my earlier *Love Synchroid*, so...

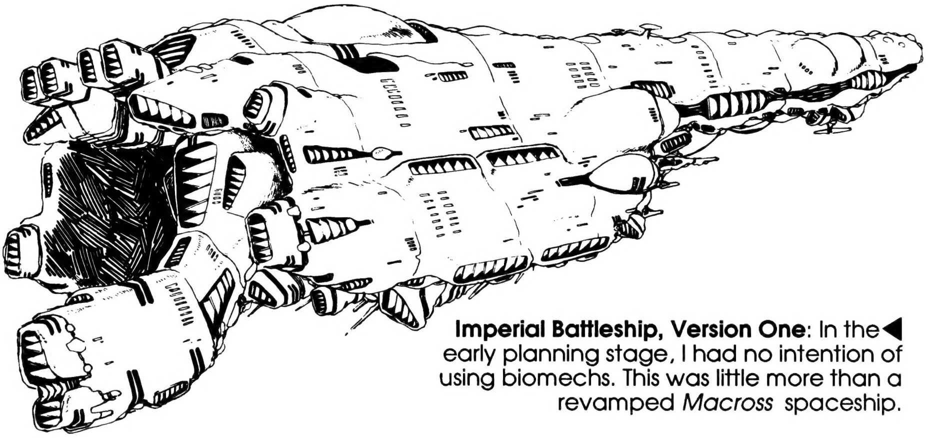


And the first version of **Aki**.◀ At first she was going to be a university student.

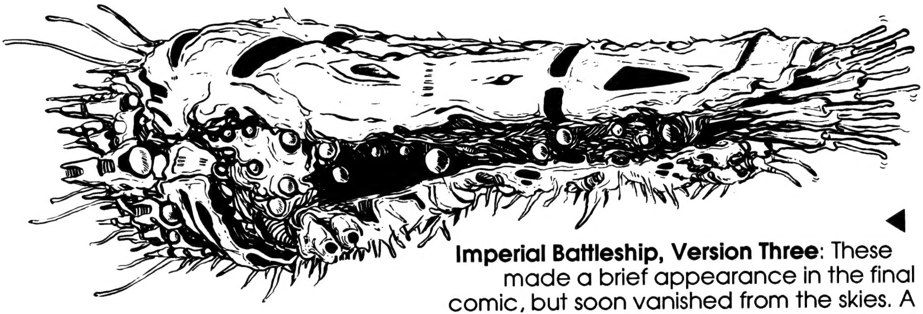


Nao, looking a little more handsome than ◀ he eventually ended up looking, don't you think?

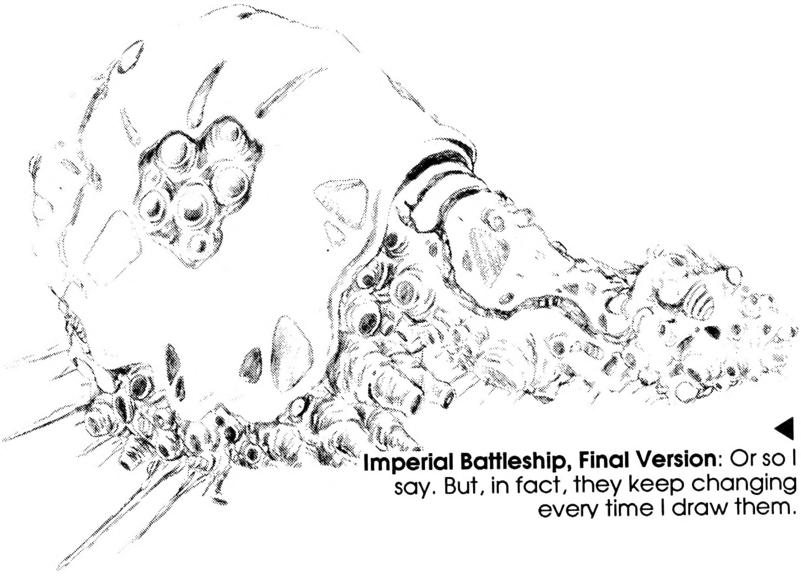
The Mecha



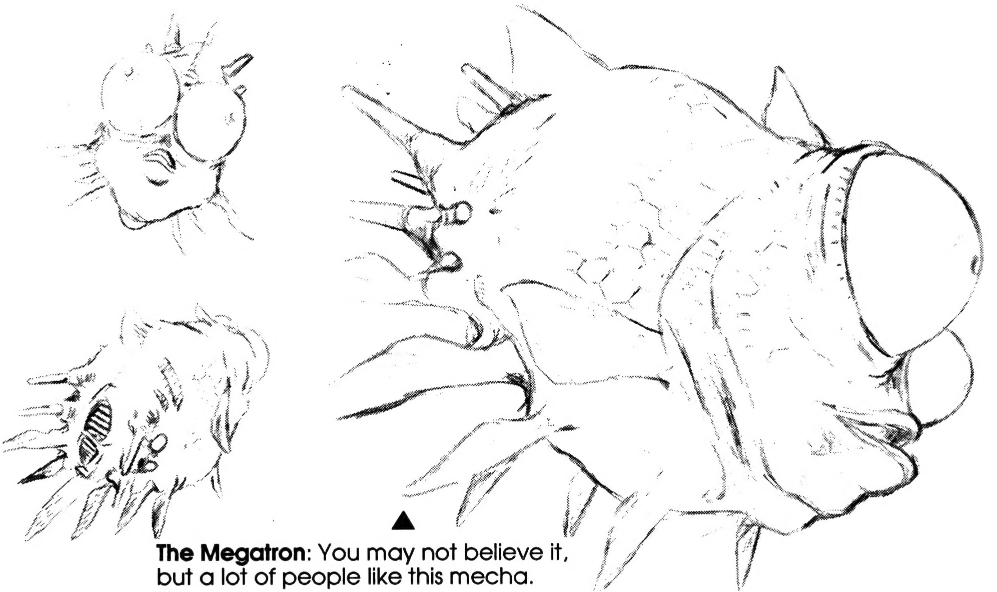
Imperial Battleship, Version One: In the◀ early planning stage, I had no intention of using biomechs. This was little more than a revamped *Macross* spaceship.



◀ **Imperial Battleship, Version Three**: These made a brief appearance in the final comic, but soon vanished from the skies. A priceless glimpse of the author's near-total lack of coherent continuity.



◀ **Imperial Battleship, Final Version**: Or so I say. But, in fact, they keep changing every time I draw them.



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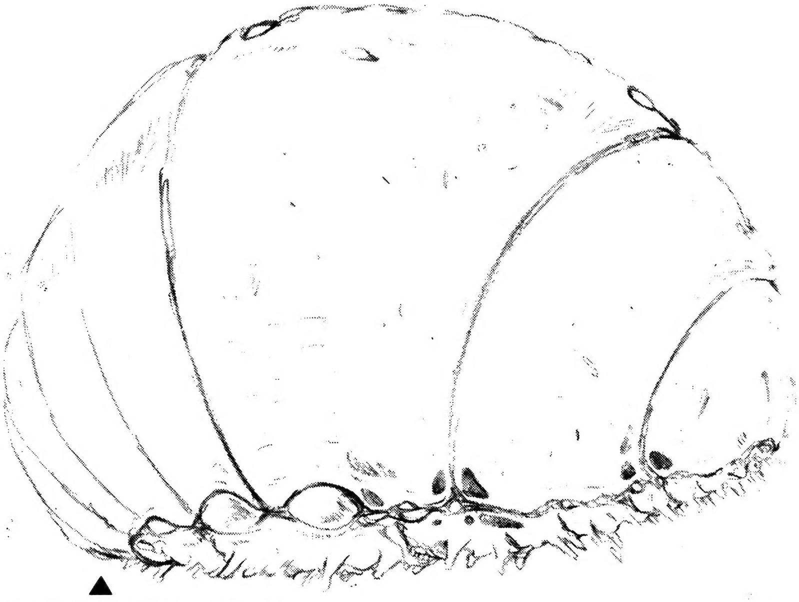
The Megatron: You may not believe it, but a lot of people like this mecha. Hmm.



▲

Rha Ledaruba: This ship being Kahm's own personal yacht/battleship, I figured I should draw something really spiffy. Oh, well...

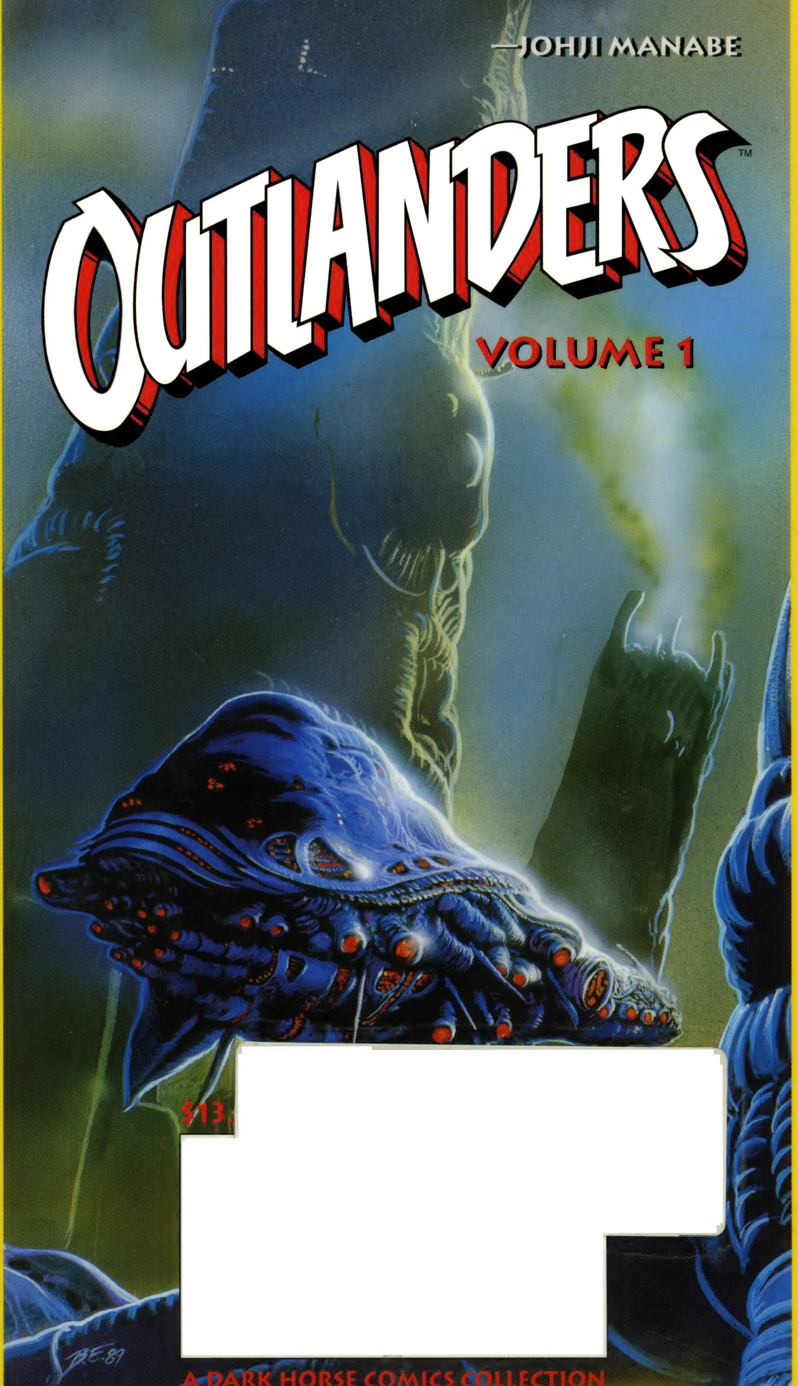
These are only a small portion of the initial design drawings. If the opportunity presents itself, you may yet see some of the things I didn't have the space for here. See you again!

"**OUTLANDERS** WAS THE WORK THAT FINALLY GAVE ME CONFIDENCE THAT I COULD KEEP MYSELF FED AND CLOTHED WORKING AS A CARTOONIST. I COUNT MYSELF LUCKY THAT MY FIRST SERIALIZED MANGA WON SO MUCH SUPPORT FROM ITS READERS IN JAPAN, AND I AM OVERJOYED THAT, THROUGH THE COOPERATION OF DARK HORSE AND STUDIO PROTEUS, **OUTLANDERS** IS BEING READ BY FANS IN AMERICA, TOO. THERE'S A LOT MORE IN STORE FOR KAHM AND TETSUYA ON THEIR TWISTING PATH TO LOVE AND FOR EARTH AND THE EMPIRE AS THEY LOCK IN FINAL BATTLE."

—JOHJI MANABE

OUTLANDERS™

VOLUME 1



$13.

[redacted]

A DARK HORSE COMICS COLLECTION